

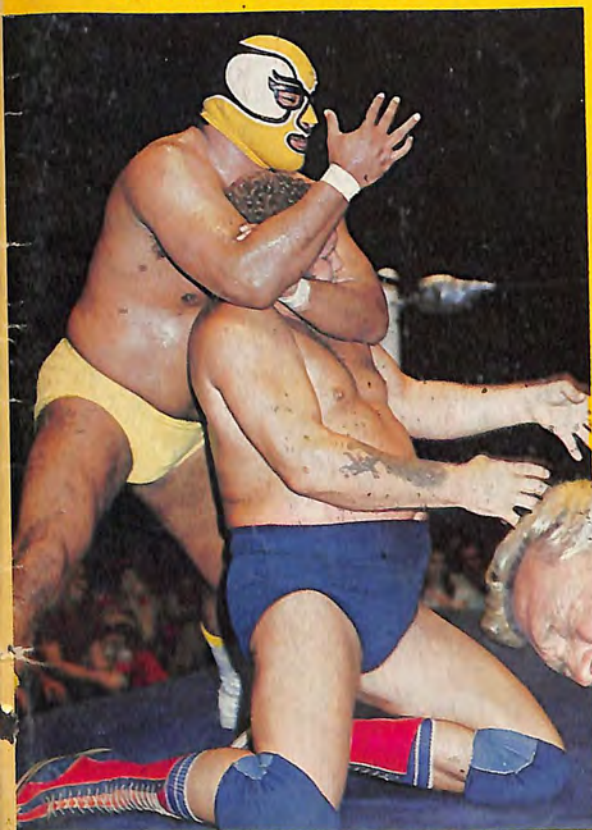
MILLIONS SOB AS VOLKOFF ATTACKS BRUNO

December 1979
47951  \$1.25

**VICTORY
SPORTS
SERIES**

THE Wrestler

**HOW AN UNKNOWN
MASKED MAN
CAUSED
THE DOWNFALL OF
HARLEY RACE**



**SUPERSTAR GRAHAM:
"HOW I
FOOLED THE FANS"
STEVE KEIRN'S
DIVIDED LOYALTY**

**IS ANDRE READY
TO QUIT
WRESTLING?**



when I planned to **retire before**

this is the business that made it possible

Starting with borrowed money, in just eight years I gained financial security, sold out at a profit and retired.

"Not until I was forty did I make up my mind that I was going to retire before ten years had passed. I knew I couldn't do it on a salary, no matter how good. I knew I couldn't do it working for others. It was perfectly obvious to me that I had to start a business of my own. But that posed a problem. What kind of business? Most of my money was tied up. Temporarily I was broke. But, when I found the business I wanted I was able to start it for a small amount of borrowed money.

"To pyramid this investment into retirement in less than ten years seems like magic, but in my opinion any man in good health who has the same ambition and drive that motivated me, could achieve such a goal. Let me give you a little history.

"I finished high school at the age of 18 and got a job as a shipping clerk. My next job was butchering at a plant that processed boneless beef. Couldn't see much future there. Next, I got a job as a Greyhound Bus Driver. The money was good. The work was pleasant, but I couldn't see it as leading to retirement. Finally I took the plunge and went into business for myself.

"I managed to raise enough money with my savings to invest in a combination motel, restaurant, grocery, and service station. It didn't take long to get my eyes opened. In order to keep that

business going my wife and I worked from dawn to dusk, 20 hours a day, seven days a week. Putting in all those hours didn't match my idea of independence and it gave me no time for my favorite sport—golf! Finally we both agreed that I should look for something else.

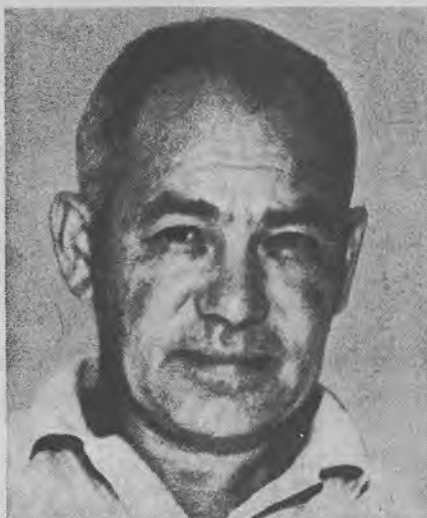
"I found it. Not right away. I investigated a lot of businesses offered as franchises. I felt that I wanted the guidance of an experienced company—wanted to have the benefit of the plans that had brought success to others, plus the benefit of running my own business under an established name that had national recognition.

"Most of the franchises offered were too costly for me. Temporarily all my capital was frozen in the motel. But I found that the Duraclean franchise offered me exactly what I had been looking for.

"I could start for a small amount. (Today, only \$1985 starts a Duraclean dealership, and the company will finance the balance of the total \$5900 cost, without interest or finance charges.) I could work it as a one-man business to start, and operate from my home. No office or shop or other overhead, no salaries to pay. Equipment would fit in my car trunk. (I bought the truck later, out of profits). Best of all, there was no ceiling on my earnings. I could build a business as big

fifty

a true story
by John B. Haikey



as my ambition and energy dictated. I could put on as many men as I needed to cover any volume. I could make a profit on every man working for me. And I could build little by little, or as fast as I wished.

"So, I started. I took the wonderful training furnished by the company. When I was ready I followed the simple plan outlined in the training. During the first period I did all the service work myself. By doing it myself, I could make much more per hour than I had ever made on a salary. Later, I would hire men, train them, pay them well, and still make an hourly profit on their time that made my idea of retirement possible—I had joined the country club and now I could play golf whenever I wished.

"What is this wonderful business? It's Duraclean. And what is Duraclean? It's an improved, space-age process for cleaning upholstered furniture, rugs and tacked down carpets. It not only cleans but it enlivens and sparkles up the colors. It does not wear down the fiber or drive dirt into the base of the rug as machine scrubbing does. Instead it lifts out the dirt by means of an absorbent dry foam.

"Furniture dealers and department stores refer their customers to the Duraclean Specialist. Insurance men say Duraclean can save them money on fire claims. Hotels, motels, specialty shops and big stores make annual contracts for keeping their carpets and furniture fresh and clean. One Duraclean Specialist signed a contract for over \$40,000 a year for just one hotel.

"Well, that's the business I was able to start with such a small investment. That's the business I built up over a period of eight years. And, that's the business I sold out at a substantial profit before I was fifty."

Would you like to taste the freedom and independence enjoyed by Mr. Haikey? You can. Let us send you the facts. Mail the coupon, and you'll receive all the details, absolutely without obligation. No salesman will ever call on you. When you receive our illustrated booklet, you'll learn how we show you STEP BY STEP how to get customers; and how to have your customers get you more customers from their recommendations.

With no obligation, we'll mail you a 24-page brochure explaining the business. Then you, and you alone, in the privacy of your home, can decide. Don't delay. Get the facts before your location is taken by someone else. Mail the coupon, now.

DURACLEAN INTERNATIONAL
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Deerfield, Illinois 60015

WITHOUT OBLIGATION mail letter and 24-page illustrated booklet explaining how I can increase my income and family security with a Duraclean Dealership. No salesman is to call on me.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

& Zip _____

Wrestler^{THE}

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"War injuries left me severely handicapped, but I'm making a very good living in Locksmithing, thanks to your course. Word of mouth advertising has been enough to make my business a financial success from the start. Besides, I'm my own boss doing something I thoroughly enjoy."

says Glen Johnson,
Larned, Kansas.



Earn More Enjoy Life – Be a... LOCKSMITH *like I am!*

Train FAST at Home – Earn While Learning

Get into this booming high-profit business that's

Easy to learn – Easy to do – Easy on You!

Never before have money-making opportunities been so great for qualified Locksmiths. Now, lucrative regular lock and key business has multiplied a thousandfold as millions seek more protection against ever increasing crime. Yet there's only one Locksmith for every 17,000 people! No wonder the money can roll in so FAST!

**Start collecting cash profits
right away – Up to \$12.50 an hour!**

You're "in business" ready to earn up to \$12.50 an hour a few days after you begin Belsaw's shortcut training. Special tools, equipment and supplies plus a professional Key-Making Machine help make your special knowledge bring in CASH FEES even while learning. Many students cover the full cost of their training and SHOW A SUBSTANTIAL PROFIT long before they finish. So can YOU.

Learn at home this shortcut way

Prepare yourself to take advantage of this tremendous money-making opportunity for steady, year-round EXTRA INCOME in your spare time or financial independence in a fulltime, high-profit business of your own. Perfect for retirement! You don't have to be an expert

mechanic to be an ace professional in this field. Once you know Locksmithing all your worries about a job, more income, layoffs, inflation, recession, too many bosses will be gone forever.

**Yours FREE – A burglar alarm
and security systems course**

Not for sale separately, but included with your training at No Extra Cost!

You receive the full course plus all special tools and equipment. Instructions and pictures are so clear you can't go wrong. This rapidly expanding field goes hand-in-hand with Locksmithing. It can add even more to your profits.



**Find out all about it
No Obligation –
NO SALESMAN WILL CALL**

Discover what's in Locksmithing for YOU. Find out how Belsaw's Master-Locksmith Approved training has helped hundreds of men to EARN MORE – ENJOY LIFE MORE.

RUSH COUPON TODAY FOR

FREE BOOK

**Belsaw Started Me Making
Money FAST as a LOCKSMITH**

"I'm MAKING OVER \$300 A MONTH in my spare time with the Belsaw Locksmith Course. Yours is the best training in America."

Henry Rivas, Los Angeles, Calif.

"I CLEARED \$110 LAST SATURDAY! I am doing a wonderful business thanks to your course in Locksmithing. It's a great business."

R. W. Davis, St. Louis, Missouri.

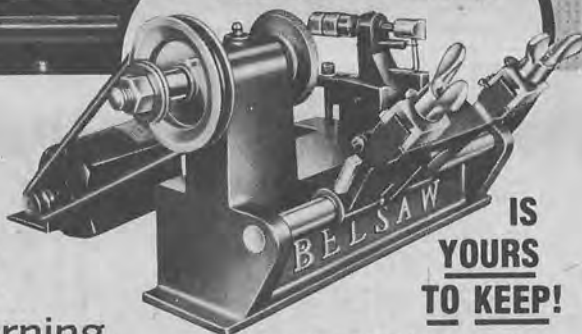
"I HAVE ALL THE LOCKSMITH WORK I CAN HANDLE. Business is so good I'm expanding to fulltime."

Ed Boyle, Pittsburg, Penna.



Tells how to Make Money in Locksmithing – Spare Time or Full Time – Almost from the Start. Mail Coupon NOW!

**THIS
PRO KEY MACHINE**



**IS
YOURS
TO KEEP!**

This Pro Key Machine can alone add up to \$200 a month to your income... and it won't cost you a penny extra with your training.

**PLUS THESE TOOLS AND MATERIALS...
ALL YOURS AS PART OF YOUR TRAINING!**



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Please send me free of cost or obligation your publication "Keys to Your Future" on how Belsaw can train me to quickly make money in Locksmithing and how all tools and Key Machine are given me to keep.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

OFFICIAL WRESTLING RATINGS

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION

Champion: BOB BACKLUND

- 1—SWEDE HANSON
- 2—PAT PATTERSON
- 3—GREG VALENTINE
- 4—IVAN PUTSKI
- 5—NIKOLAI VOLKOFF
- 6—CHIEF JAY STRONGBOW
- 7—BOBBY DUNCUM
- 8—TED DiBIASE
- 9—HUSSEIN ARAB
- 10—BULLDOG BROWER

AMERICAN WRESTLING ASSOCIATION

Champion: NICK BOCKWINKEL

- 1—MAD DOG VACHON
- 2—RAY STEVENS
- 3—VERNE GAGNE
- 4—BILLY ROBINSON
- 5—GREG GAGNE
- 6—CRUSHER
- 7—SUPER DESTROYER II
- 8—BOBBY DUNCUM
- 9—STEVE OLSONOSKI
- 10—DOUG GILBERT

MOST POPULAR

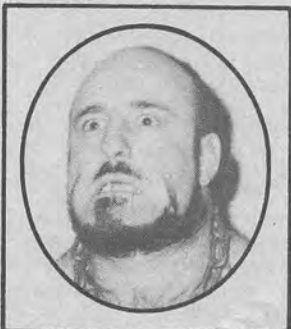
- 1—DUSTY RHODES
- 2—ANDRE THE GIANT
- 3—IVAN PUTSKI
- 4—TED DiBIASE
- 5—BOB BACKLUND
- 6—RICK STEAMBOAT
- 7—MR. WRESTLING II
- 8—CHIEF JAY STRONGBOW
- 9—WAHOO McDANIEL
- 10—BILLY ROBINSON



SWEDE HANSON



DUSTY RHODES



MAD DOG VACHON



GREG VALENTINE

NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE

Champion: DUSTY RHODES

- 1—HARLEY RACE
- 2—RIC FLAIR
- 3—KEN PATERA
- 4—WAHOO McDANIEL
- 5—MR. WRESTLING II
- 6—TERRY FUNK
- 7—RICK STEAMBOAT
- 8—MARK LEWIN
- 9—STEVE KEIRN
- 10—EL HALCON

TAG TEAMS

- 1—THE VALIANT BROTHERS
- 2—VERNE GAGNE & MAD DOG VACHON
- 3—RIC FLAIR & BLACKJACK MULLIGAN
- 4—JIM GARVIN & STEVE KEIRN
- 5—IVAN KOLOFF & OLE ANDERSON
- 6—BRUISER BRODIE & KERRY VON ERICH
- 7—KEN PATERA & JOHN STUDD
- 8—TOMMY RICH & STAN HANSEN
- 9—DON MURACO & JOS LEDUC
- 10—RON & ROBERT FULLER

MOST HATED

- 1—NIKOLAI VOLKOFF
- 2—IVAN KOLOFF
- 3—KEN PATERA
- 4—GREG VALENTINE
- 5—ERNIE LADD
- 6—MARK LEWIN
- 7—PAUL JONES
- 8—OLE ANDERSON
- 9—KILLER KOX
- 10—KING CURTIS

Get Up To 4 Extra Miles Per Gallon
... 100 Extra Miles Between Fill-Ups

SAVE UP TO \$200 A YEAR ON GAS

Think of it! Thanks to an important automotive invention, every single car owner, every fleet operator, every truck or camper owner... everyone who operates a gas-powered internal combustion engine, may now be able to save up to 20% and more on their gasoline bills!

Yes, you may actually get up to 70... 80... 90... even 100 extra miles from every single tankful! No matter how old or run-down your car may be... no matter how many gallons of gas it now devours each week... FROM THE VERY INSTANT YOU INSTALL THE BALL-MATIC™ GAS SAVER VALVE IN YOUR CAR YOU SHOULD EXPERIENCE A NOTICEABLE DECREASE IN GAS CONSUMPTION!

Here's why:

The carburetor is a major component in your car's engine which can cause a significant waste of gasoline. Under actual day to day driving conditions its ability to perform is never fully efficient. During peak load conditions... or when driving at higher speeds... or starting up from a dead stop... or negotiating grades and steep hills... or pulling a trailer or camper... or carrying a full load of passengers, the carburetor can allow too much gas to feed into the combustion chamber which considerably reduces your fuel economy. Every time that happens, it's just like pouring money down the drain.

Stops Your Car From Wasting Gasoline

Adding the BALL-MATIC GAS SAVER VALVE to your engine is like having a "mini computer brain" which actually controls the air-to-fuel balance on a constant basis. As soon as an improper over-rich condition develops, it opens to permit a precise measure of additional air to enter the system. The result: more effective combustion and a fuel savings of up to 20% or more!

Controlled Tests Confirm Big Dollar Savings

In the Spring of 1978, we arranged for a local Shell Service Station to conduct a controlled, supervised, test using seven different cars owned and driven by non-professional drivers. Each car was fitted with a locked gas cap and the keys kept in the possession of the testers. After establishing base mileage consumption data for the various cars, the BALL-MATIC was installed and miles-per-gallon figures were re-checked. Every single car in the test showed meaningful improvement.

Make Of Car	MPG Improvement
Cadillac Eldorado	21%
Chrysler Imperial	28%
Oldsmobile Cutlass	8%
Chevrolet Vega	10%
Ford Gran Torino	19%
Chevrolet Camaro	16%
Cadillac Eldorado	40%
IMPROVEMENT RANGE ... 8% to 40%	

Start Saving Immediately

As of now, tens of thousands of motorists all over the country have put the BALL-MATIC GAS SAVER VALVE in their cars. It takes only a few minutes to install and no special tools are required (easy-to-follow instructions are provided) — it's so easy, anyone can do it! But best of all, the BALL-MATIC works immediately. There's no "breaking-in period" — you experience a significant savings with the very first tankful.

The BALL-MATIC fits all American and foreign cars except Volkswagens. Do not use on diesel or fuel injected models.

READ THE RESULTS FOR YOURSELF!

I have had a remarkable improvement starting with my very first tankful going from 17-20 MPG in my 1979 Oldsmobile Cutlass. Since I am Executive Vice President in Charge of Sales for my company, I total well over 35,000 miles a year. According to my calculations, the BALL-MATIC will save me over \$300.00 in the next 12 months alone. Needless to say, it was one of my best investments of the year!

Joseph D'Errico, Sr., Hamden, Connecticut

Just a short note to inform you of the performance of your BALL-MATIC unit that I have installed in my 1972 Ford station wagon. Prior to using your device, I averaged 12 to 13 MPG, now that I have installed your unit my mileage has gone up to 16 MPG around town.

A. Coutts, Sheriff, Orange County, California

I want to express my thanks for the BALL-MATIC. Since it has been installed in my car, my gas mileage has not been under 18 miles per gallon. This is an increase of 5.5 miles per gallon.

Rev. R. N., Claremont, California

After installing the BALL-MATIC on my 1972 Oldsmobile Toronado I increased from 7.5 to 10.5 miles to the gallon.

Seeing this I took my station on as a BALL-MATIC dealer and within the first week sold over 100 valves. This is the kind of extra income producer that other service stations should consider during this energy crisis to service their customers.

Louis Michaud
Mobil Service, New Britain, Connecticut

LOOK HOW EASY IT IS TO INSTALL THE BALL-MATIC YOURSELF

All you do is simply slip the BALL-MATIC onto the line leading from the PCV valve and twist into place. (It's as easy as screwing in a light bulb). In fact even if you never lifted the hood of your car before... you can install the BALL-MATIC in just a few minutes (no special tools required). Easy to follow instructions are included.



GUARANTEED SAVINGS

We firmly believe the BALL-MATIC to be one of the best investments you can make to save money this year. The exact savings you will receive may vary significantly depending on the kind of car you drive, the condition of your engine, weather, your driving habits and the amount of driving you do; however we guarantee that you MUST SAVE AT LEAST FIVE TIMES the amount you paid for your BALL-MATIC in the first year or you may return it for a full refund.

OVER 100,000
ALREADY IN USE

PRECISION
TOOLED
SOLID
METAL

U.S. PATENT
#3,809,035

Order One Today Entirely At Our Risk

There may be a reason why you don't install a BALL-MATIC on your car immediately. But, for the life of us, we can't figure it out! If after reading this ad you have any doubts whatsoever, just drop a note and we'll gladly forward a copy of our test reports for your inspection.

Test the BALL-MATIC yourself entirely at our risk. Install it in your own family or company car and if it doesn't deliver everything we say it will — starting with the very first tankful, just return it and we'll refund your purchase price. We wouldn't make that kind of guarantee in writing if we weren't positive of the performance of the BALL-MATIC!

Please don't delay. Every day you drive without a BALL-MATIC GAS SAVER VALVE in your car costs you money and needlessly wastes precious gasoline. Call or send in your coupon today.

24 HOURS A DAY — 7 DAYS A WEEK



FOR MASTER CHARGE
AND VISA ORDERS
CALL TOLL FREE
1-800-331-1000

In Okla. Call Collect (918) 664-8300

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2055 McDonald Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11223

Please RUSH me the BALL-MATIC GAS SAVER VALVE(S) ordered below along with easy-to-follow installation instructions. I must get immediate improvement in pick-up and better gas mileage starting with my next fill-up and I must save at least five times my purchase price in the first year of use or I may return my valve for a refund of my purchase price (excluding postage and handling, of course).

Enclosed is \$_____

- ☐ \$12.95 plus 85¢ postage and handling for ONE BALL-MATIC
- ☐ \$24.95 for TWO BALL-MATICS ppd. (You save \$2.65)
- ☐ \$36.50 for THREE BALL-MATICS ppd. (You save \$4.90) Add \$12 for each additional valve.

Connecticut residents add sales tax.

CHARGE IT:

- ☐ Visa ☐ Master Charge,
- Exp. Date _____ Bank # _____
- Card # _____

Print Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

CANADIAN CUSTOMERS Please add \$2.00 extra. Order from KYCAM, 510 Coronation Drive, West Hill, Ont. M1E4X6

DEALER INQUIRIES INVITED

YOU ASKED US

Here's the monthly feature which YOU get to write! It's your chance to have a top wrestler answer YOUR question! Only the best questions will be answered—so put on your thinking caps and come up with some good ones! Address your questions—and who you would like to have answer them—to: YOU ASKED US, c/o THE WRESTLER, PO Box 48, Rockville Centre, N.Y. 11571. Questions will be answered only in this column and at our discretion!



The Mighty Igor is supervised by manager Ivan Kalmikoff as he works out with weights. Jeff Pergrim is curious to know if Igor and Ivan Putski will ever team.

Q: Is it possible that the two Polish strongmen, Ivan Putski and Mighty Igor, would ever wrestle as a tag team in the WWF?—Jeff Pergrim, Mineral Point, Pa.

A: At present, neither Putski nor Igor have any plans to form a tag team. However, due to their close friendship, both expressed hope that a team

could be formed in the foreseeable future to challenge what each man regards as the heinous reign of the current WWF champions, the Valiant Brothers.

Q: I was wondering if Mil Mascaras has any hair? My

friends say he doesn't. I say he does—Rebecca Mills, Warfordsburg, Pa.

A: For a question as personal as this, we felt it best to have Mil Mascaras answer for himself. "No," he said. "I do not mind questions like this. A fan has the right to learn as much as possible about his favorite wrestlers. Yes, Rebecca, I do have hair, though it might not look as if I do. Remember, under a mask a man can conceal many things. One of the things I tuck under my masks is my hair."

Q: Does John Valiant ever feel like wrestling with someone outside his family as his partner?—Hal Bodley, Syracuse, N.Y.

A: "Only if one of my brothers gets sick or is attacked by some swinish pork-face in an alley," John thundered. "I prefer wrestling with a brother 'cause I know I can trust him. An outsider has to be taken with a grain of salt. If I had to, I guess I would. I've done it a couple of times before and didn't care for it. This time, my manager, Captain Lou Albano, would have to pass judgement on any replacement. Did I answer the little twerp's question good enough?"

Q: How does Dusty Rhodes feel now that he's become NWA champion?—David Manber, Miami, Fla.

A: "David, I want to say thank you to all my fans. You people have supported me through the best of times and the worst of times," Dusty said, his voice faltering for a moment. "There were some times of
(Continued on page 58)

Dominate Others With Fantastic Brute Strength!

"LET ME TEACH YOU THE SIMPLE SECRET PROFESSIONAL MUSCLEMEN USE TO BUILD UP THEIR BODIES IN JUST 90 SECONDS A DAY!"

by Joe Nazario, Mr. U.S.A. Physique Champion, 1977,
Mr. International, 1978

**Regardless of your age, weight & height, if you
can spare 90 seconds a day, you CAN get back
into shape!**

**Achieve these five muscle improvements
within one month, or you pay nothing!**

- ☐ See your abdomen become a taut wall of muscle!
- ☐ Transform weak arms into pillars of strength!
- ☐ Lift and broaden sagging shoulders!
- ☐ Develop a deep and powerful chest!
- ☐ Strengthen your back, thighs and calves!

I'm a professional body builder. I won the Mr. U.S.A. competition in 1977, and the Mr. International contest in 1978. I'll probably win Mr. Universe this year. I'm also in the exercise and health consulting business in New York City.

So I'm familiar with exercise and body building programs. I've probably tried every single one of them. And do you know something? Not one of them is worth the money you have to pay!

The reason is simple. Every so-called exercise machine, every weight-lifting set ever made works on one of two principles: isometric (putting stress on muscles that do not move) or isotonic (moving muscles under stress).

So, when you pay good money for a machine or a set of fancy equipment, you're buying a gimmick. You can accomplish *exactly the same exercise value*, get exactly the same results, without the machine—**IF YOU KNOW HOW!** What's more, since machines and weights put a tremendous amount of stress on weak, underdeveloped muscles, they can *actually cause more harm than good*.

THE SIMPLE LOCKER ROOM SECRET THAT REALLY WORKS, IN JUST 90 SECONDS

In my years as an athlete and as an "iron pumper," I've seen hundreds of men get ready for strenuous competition. Each had his own personal mannerisms. Each had favorite warm-up exercises. But over the years, I noticed a simple, common thread that was common to all.

I actually discovered the simple locker room secret that the pros use to build up their bodies in just 90 seconds!

That's right, using my secret, you can exercise *all 18 muscle groups* in your body in just 90 seconds. Eighteen simple exercises every day, just five seconds on each. And within two weeks or less, you'll begin to notice the difference.

You'll **FEEL** stronger! You'll **LOOK** healthier, your body will be **FAR MORE ATTRACTIVE!** I'm not talking about tiny differences you can measure with a tape—I'm talking about *great changes* you'll begin to feel yourself, you'll notice in the mirror, your friends will notice on the beach!

WHAT IS MY AMAZING SECRET?

Frankly, it'll cost you \$5.00 to find out. After all, a secret as good as this one, a secret that will make your body stronger, healthier, better looking is *worth \$5.00!* But I'll give you a hint. It's a combination of the principles of *both* isometrics and isotonic. I call it "Tonometrics". And it requires no special equipment, no fancy gym. You can use my "tonometric" techniques and special "tonometric" exercises in your bedroom, bathroom, even in your office during your coffee break!

There are 18 special exercises in all, one for each of the 18 major muscle groups in your body. And each exercise takes just 5 seconds to do.

SEE THE RESULTS YOU CAN EXPECT FROM MY SECRET "TONOMETRIC" EXERCISE PROGRAM—DEPENDENT UPON YOUR AGE:

If you are basically healthy and eat a balanced diet, the percentage of total performance can improve as follows using the "tonometric" program:

Age	Amount of Improvement	Age	Amount of Improvement
15	up to 100%	35	up to 180%
18	up to 130%	40	up to 150%
21	up to 150%	50	up to 100%
25	up to 200%	60	up to 70%
30	up to 200%	70	up to 50%

Of course, if you have a weak heart, or any physical disability, you should consult with your physician before beginning this or any other exercise program.

ABSOLUTELY NO RISK TO YOU!

When you send me your \$5.00, I'll send you a booklet explaining the "tonometric" concept, and outlining an exercise program using my 18 basic exercises designed to *trim down fat and flab...and build up weak, underdeveloped muscles*. **BUT I WON'T CASH YOUR CHECK FOR 30 DAYS!**

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Joe is 29 years old. He presently is in the health food business, and conducts seminars on health, nutrition, and exercise.

Joe has served as a consultant to industry, and gives private body building instruction. In 1977, Joe won the Mr. U.S.A. Physique Championship, and in 1978 he was named Mr. International.

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Chest: 52"
Arms: 19"
Calves: 17"
Weight: 215
Waist: 34"
Thighs: 28"
Neck: 18"

Joe Nazario, Dept. S-20
277 Northern Blvd.,
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WHAT'S HAPPENING!

By BILL APTER

DUSTY RHODES FINALLY realized his longtime dream. He won the NWA heavyweight championship from Harley Race.

In an exclusive interview just moments after the match, Dusty, crying tears of joy, said: "It's finally happened. My dream has come true. I am the champion! No matter how long or short my title reign, I just want to tell my fans that I love them and thank them for hangin' in there with me when the goin' got rough. Things looked gloomy for some time but the dream is now reality. I am king!" (For a full, exclusive report on Dusty Rhodes' title winning victory, be sure to pick up a copy of **PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED**/January, which goes on sale October 16.)

Speaking of kings, there is new royalty in the Mid-Atlantic region. Ric Flair and former arch-enemy Blackjack Mulligan have wrestled the NWA tag team championship away from the hated Baron Von Raschke and equally despised Paul Jones. It's good to see that Flair and Mulligan put their talents to use *together* for a change instead of *against* each other.

Professor Toru Tanaka and his longtime partner Mr. Fuji, are

together again after going their separate ways for several years. They're currently trying to win a major tag team championship in Tennessee . . . Hard to believe: Houston, Texas fans have voted Bruiser Brodie as their favorite star along with Mil Mascaras, Wahoo McDaniel, and the Von Erich family. I bet you never thought you'd see Brodie's name in with



Look who's Number One! Dusty Rhodes, in combat with Bob Roop, has reached the heights of his career with his championship victory over Harley Race.

that circle.

AWA champion Nick Bockwinkel says that young Greg Gagne, one of the top challengers for the AWA throne, is past his prime. "I beat all his good years out of him," Bockwinkel explains. "The guy is through, washed up forever." . . . Jim Brunzell, Greg Gagne's ex-steady tag team partner has a sensational winning streak going for him in the Carolinas . . . Killer Kahn and King Curtis are chasing the Florida tag team title held by Steve Keirn and Jim Garvin . . . Jerry Lawler and ex-friend Bill Dundee are engaging in brutal bloodbaths in Tennessee as are former friends Victor Rivera and Chavo Guerrero in California.

Greg Valentine says he is not through with WWF champion Bob Backlund yet. "Not until I break both of that slob's legs!" he vows . . . Rick Steamboat's sights are now set on Ken Patera's Mid-Atlantic championship . . . "Nature Boy" Buddy Rogers is looking for a perfect tag team partner for his protegee Jimmy Snuka. "The guy I need to match up as a teammate for Jimmy must be really mean so he won't take any crap from guys like Steamboat and his friends."

(Continued on page 52)

New from NRI! 25" color TV that tunes by computer, programs an entire evening's entertainment.

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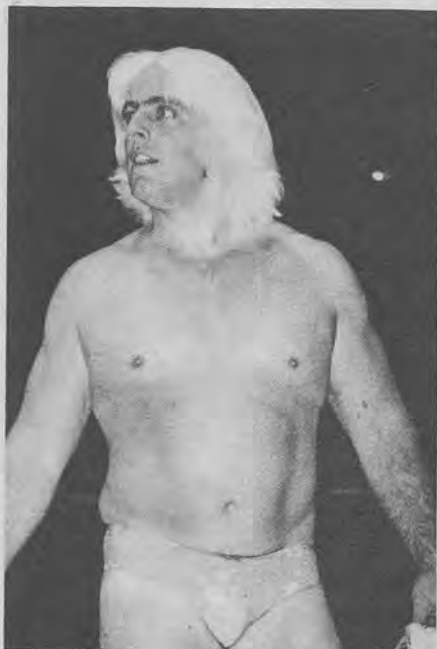
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CORRESPONDENTS Reports



Ric Flair made a great comeback to defeat Ernie Ladd in Asheville, North Carolina.

ASHEVILLE, N.C.—Correspondent: Allen Ward—This was an amazing match. Ric Flair against Ernie Ladd. Ladd was vicious and mean and used every dirty trick he knew on Flair. But Nature Boy would not succumb, though a few times it looked like he would. Flair reached deep into his own special bag of tricks and pulled out a tough victory.

In other bouts, Jim Brunzell beat Ken Patera and won the \$1,000 stakes Patera had put up . . . Rufus R. Jones and Jimmy Snuka were both counted out . . . Jay Youngblood and Pedro Morales whipped The Scorpion and Brute Bernard.

If you would like your area of the country represented in these reports, while also being officially credited with your own by-line, send us reports of the matches you attend. You will have the thrill of seeing your name in an internationally known magazine while at the same time helping to improve the quality of wrestling in your area. So why not give it a try? You will be glad you did!

Send your reports to : Correspondent Editor, Box 48, Rockville Centre, N.Y. 11571.

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.—Correspondent: Charles Reimer—The Main Event saw no scientific wrestling when Mad Dog Vachon locked horns with Super Destroyer II. Vachon became incensed when Destroyer's manager, Lord Alfredy Hays, interfered. Vachon retaliated by trying to unmask Destroyer. For some reason, the referee tried to stop that, further engaging Vachon, who assaulted the referee and was justifiably disqualified.

In other matches, Paul Ellering won a "Pose Down" over Jesse Ventura . . . Billy Robinson overcame Ron Richey . . . Highly touted rookie Steve Olsonoski demolished Lord Alfred Hays.

TYLER, TEXAS—Correspondent: Carl Shands—Kevin Von Erich was taught a valuable, although painful lesson of life. His foe was the dreaded Spoiler, a man of many excruciating maneuvers. One of Spoiler's favorites is the



Super Destroyer was declared victorious when Mad Dog Vachon was disqualified for hitting the referee.



The Spoiler was disqualified for not releasing Kevin Von Erich from his head claw by the five-second count.

head claw. Young Von Erich knew he had to face up to this awful challenge. Unfortunately, the results were uncertain. Kevin von the match, but it was by disqualification when Spoiler wouldn't break the claw at the count of five.

In other bouts, Bruiser Brodie dumped Gary Hart . . . Kerry Von Erich and Killer Tim Brooks wrestled to a wild 20 minute draw.

(Continued on page 56)

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Readers Louis Pinto and Rich Sanzo have differing opinions on the Valiant Brothers (above). Janet Williams claims Jimmy Snuka (below) was offered \$25,000 by Buddy Rogers to turn bad.

VALIANTS ARE NO CHAMPS

Since the time that the Valiants were allowed to steal the WWF tag team title from Tony Garea and Larry Zbyszko, they have dragged the title down to their lowest level of treachery. They do not wrestle like true champions. How they are allowed to use such illegal tactics like the closed fist, jumping off the top rope and constantly interfering without getting disqualified is amazing.

It's a real disgrace to see the likes of the Valiants posing as something they're not, champions.

LOUIS PINTO
East Orange, N.J.

MORE ON THE VALIANTS

I have read the latest issue of your magazine and there isn't even a mention of the Valiant Brothers. They are the WWF tag team champions and you don't even write a story telling how they have been faring against the top competition in the WWF.

They have held the title for several months and you act as if you don't recognize their greatness. What do they have to do to get some recognition, beat every tag team that ever lived?

RICH SANZO
Shelton, Conn.

(Continued on page 54)

VERY ASHAMED

A couple of my friends and I went to Greensboro recently. We saw something which made us sick to our stomachs.

Buddy Rogers paid Jimmy Snuka \$25,000 to go bad and Snuka loved it. I don't. Jimmy lost a lot to his fans and friends that helped him. He turned traitor just for money.

This is one fan who is very upset and hurt. Snuka will never hear fans cheer for him anymore. Ask him if that is worth \$25,000.

JANET WILLIAMS
Icard, N.C.



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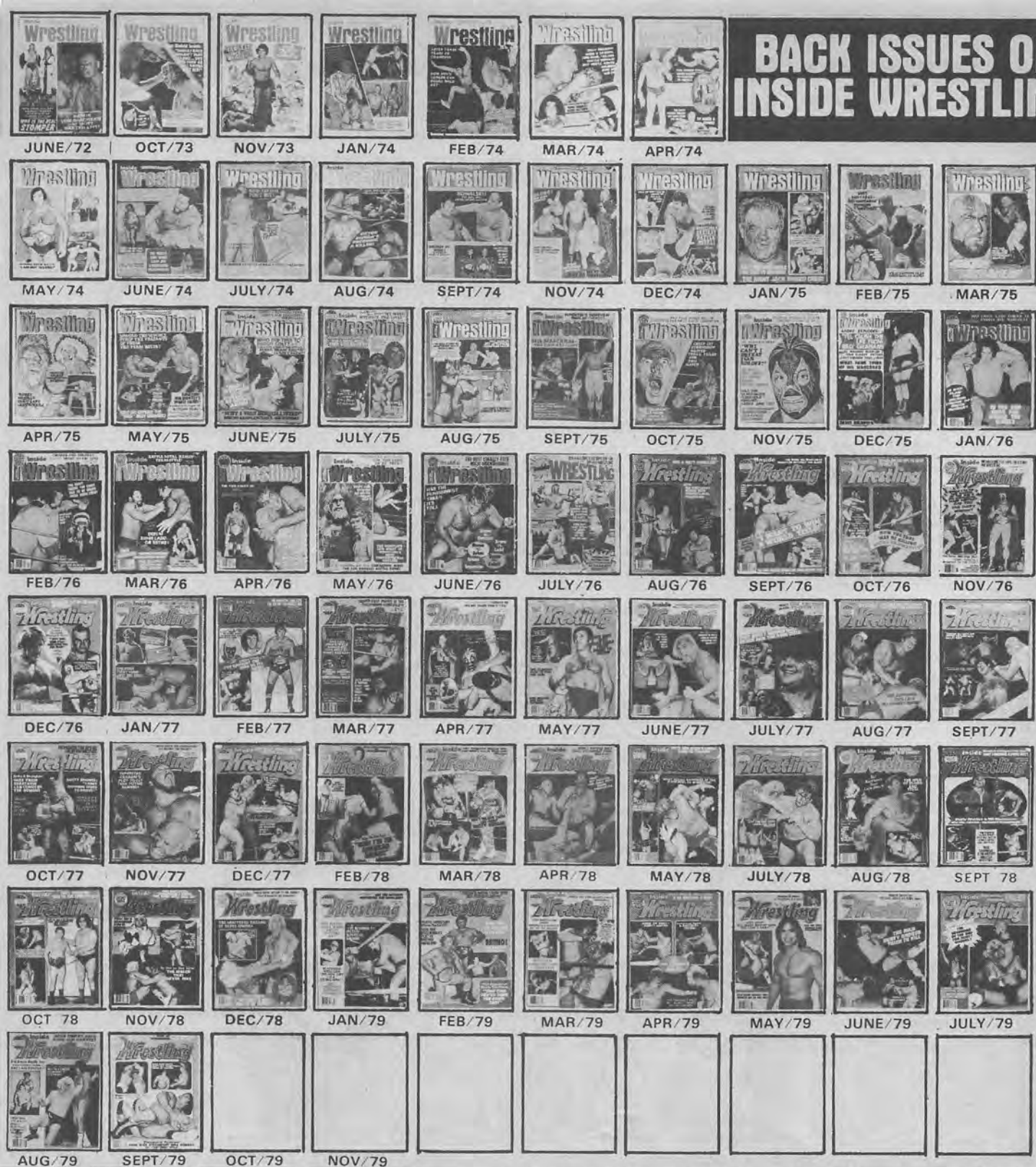
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| <input type="checkbox"/> JULY/75 | <input type="checkbox"/> MAR/77 | <input type="checkbox"/> NOV/78 | |
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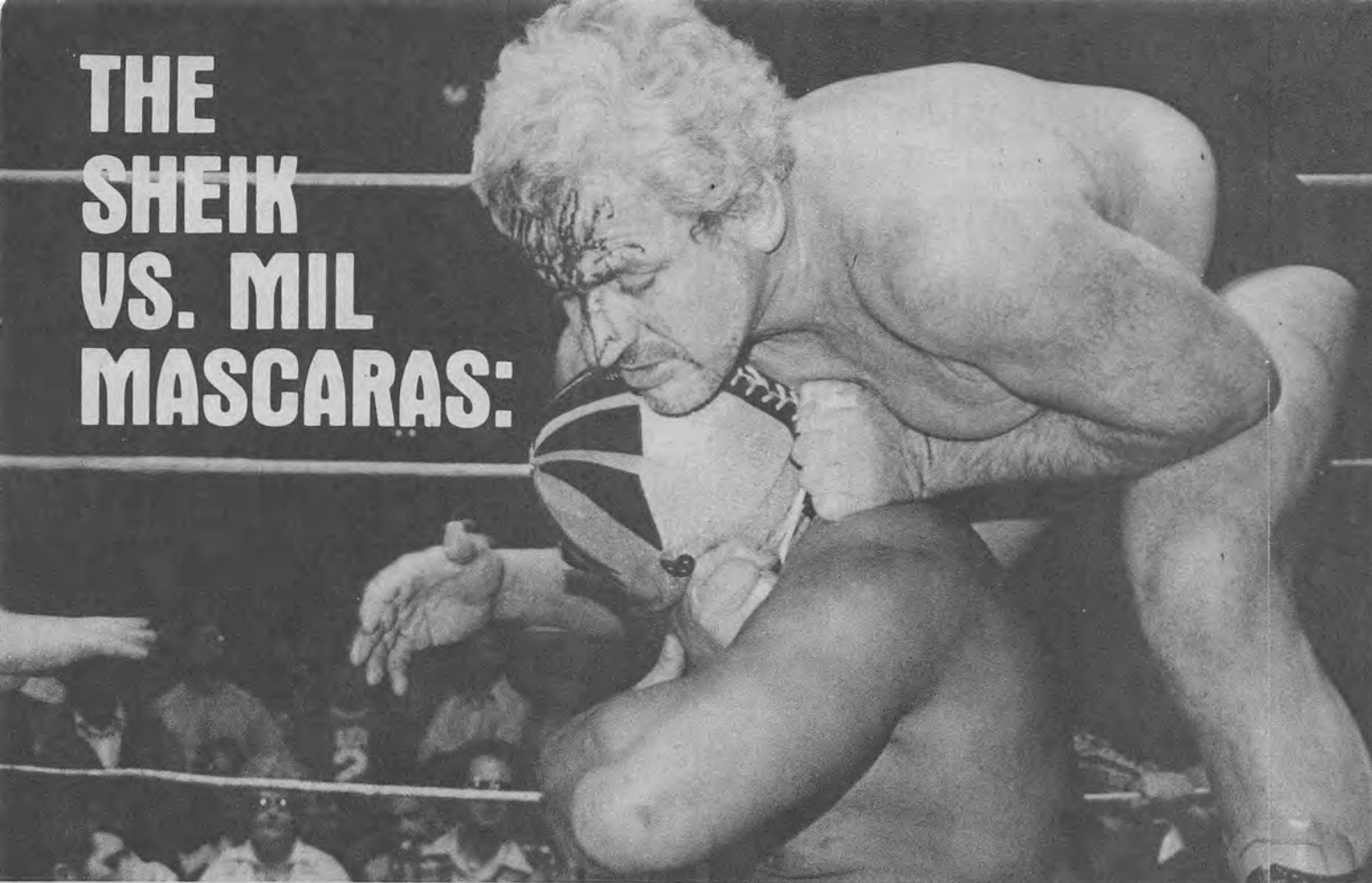
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THE SHEIK VS. MIL MASCARAS:



PRELUDE TO BACKLUND?

EVERYONE WAS RELIEVED when the jet set down in Detroit. It had been a smooth flight except for one passenger who kept screaming, "I'm the Grand Wizard! I expect service!"

Grand Wizard was traveling to Detroit to see Sheik, one of the most despised men in

wrestling, just the kind of grappler Wizard loves to manage. Sheik was going to face perhaps the most superb athlete in wrestling. Mil Mascaras. Wizard reasoned if Sheik should better Mascaras, then the Arab could easily take the WWF title from Bob

Backlund. All Sheik would need would be the brilliant wrestling strategies of Grand Wizard.

Wizard had already spoken to Sheik about his plan. The Arab grappler knew Wizard would be in the audience. That meant Sheik was determined to be crueler, even more vicious than usual. He didn't intend to beat Mascaras. Sheik would be satisfied with no less than to hospitalize the masked superstar.

Wizard waited impatiently for the preliminary matches to end. Nothing makes Wizard more excited than an impending massacre. A match isn't complete, as far as Wizard's concerned, unless someone is

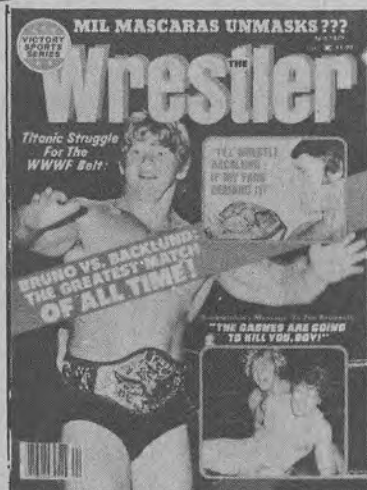
(Continued on page 46)

In his title reign, Bob Backlund has had to confront many terrifying challenges. Perhaps the most horrifying is the anticipation. He waits anxiously for the winner of The Sheik and Mil Mascaras. If they meet, the victor may come east. Looking for Bob Backlund

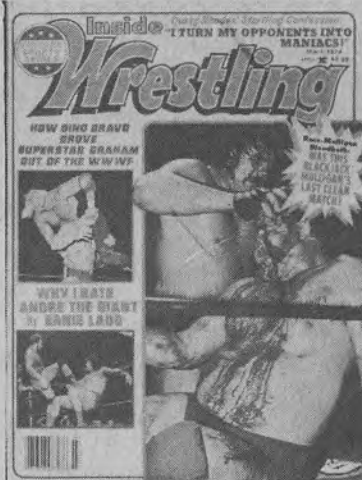
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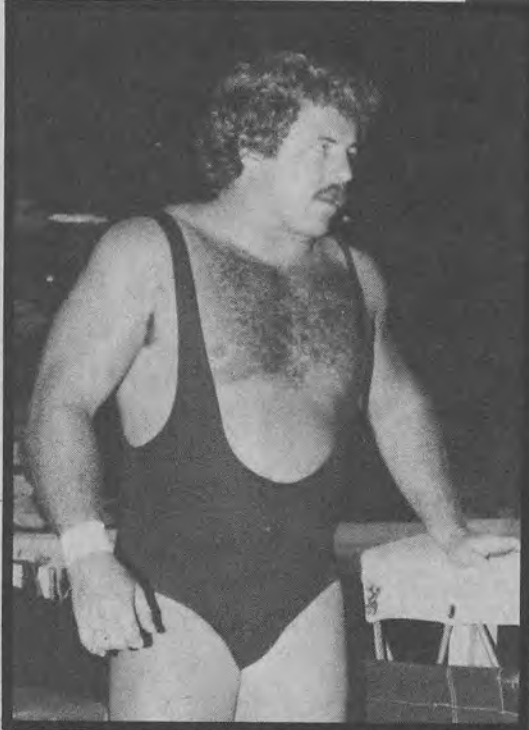
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STEVE KEIRN HAS had more than his share of troubles for one so young and talented. He has suffered the uncertain anguish of a broken leg. His career was in doubt, then it brightened and led him to the Florida tag team championship with partner Jim Garvin.



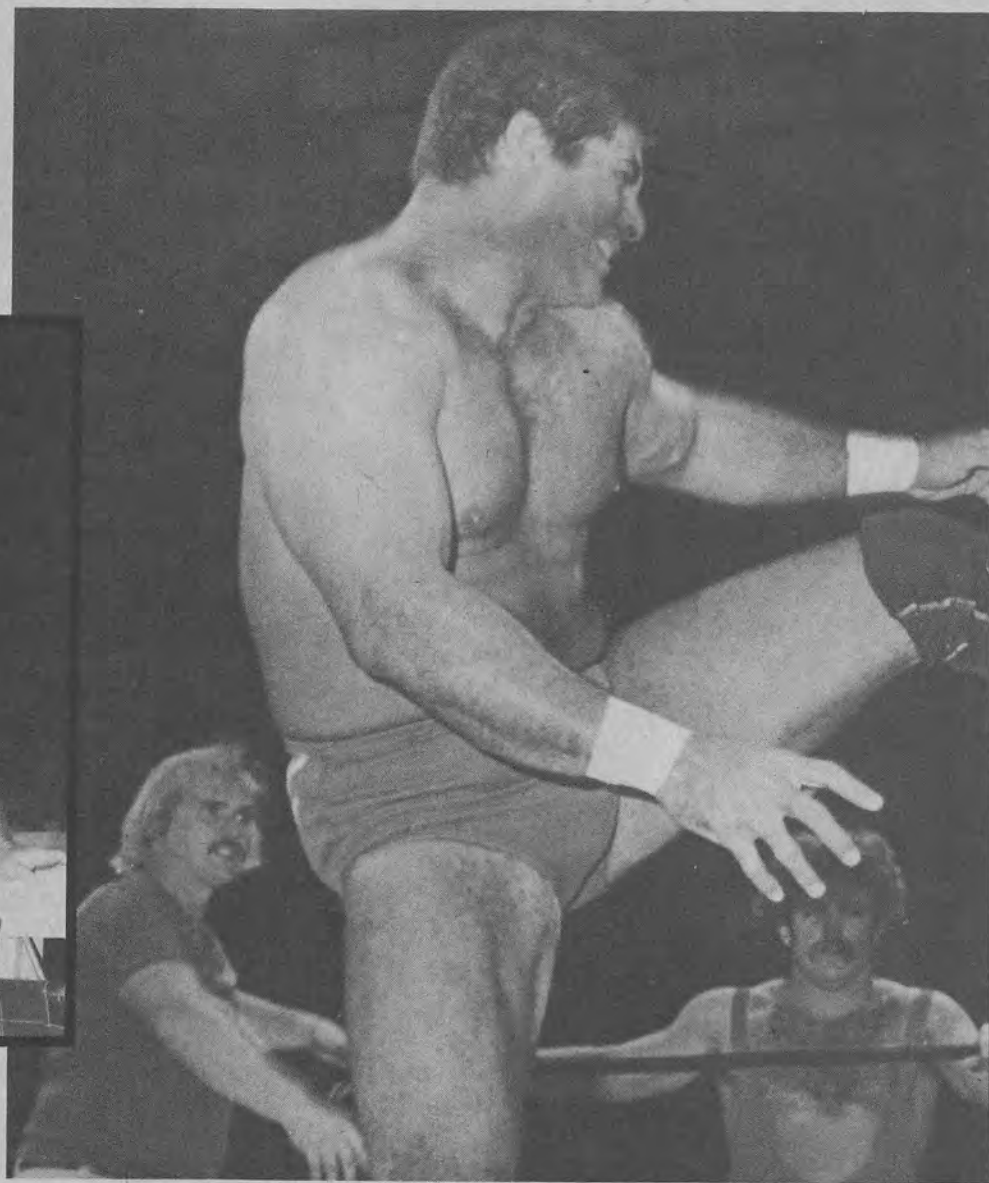
Steve Keirn, grabbing Don Muraco's leg (right), would like to be able to team with his closest friend, Mike Graham (above), while in possession of the Florida tag team championship with Jim Garvin.

But Garvin is not easily satisfied. His ambitions are deep and compelling. Loyalty is an important concept to Keirn. Loyalty to his craft. Loyalty to his friends.

Mike Graham is a close friend. Indeed, Graham is his *closest* friend. For years, they were hailed as the top young team in wrestling. They captured the Florida title, only to lose it when a series of misfortunes assaulted them.

They drifted apart professionally, though their friendship remained tight. Daily consultations about matches were as much a part of their lives as dinner and sleep. They were friends.

Observers had pointed to that friendship as a restraining influence on their careers. These observers insisted that Graham and Keirn had to pursue individual careers if they were ever to reach the pinnacle of their professions.

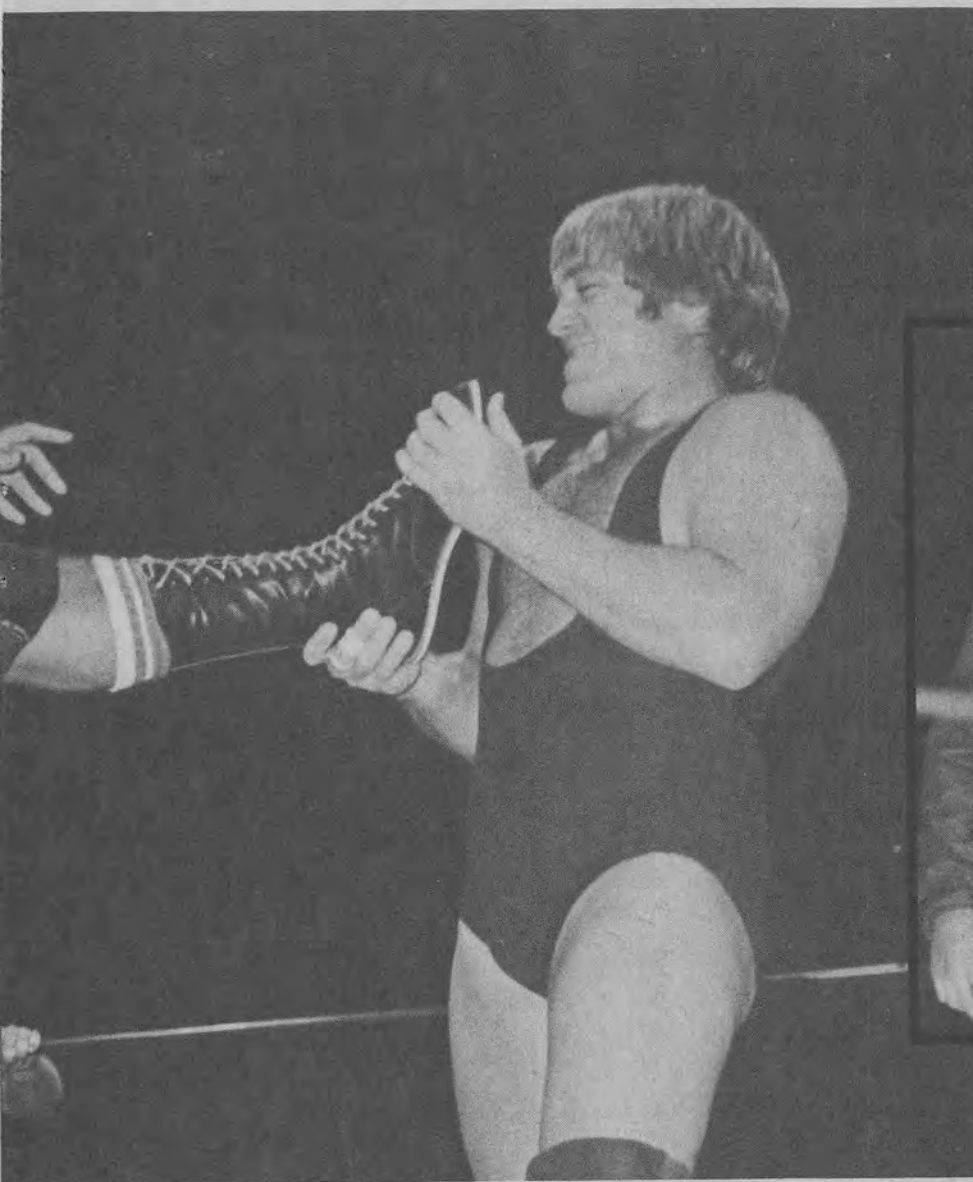


Grudgingly, they conceded the point.

Now another wave of "expert" opinions sweeps over their lives. Again they dare to swim against the currents. This time Keirn swims alone. His friend is on the shore, awaiting the outcome of his struggle. There is little Mike Graham can do to help Keirn. Garvin can do even less.

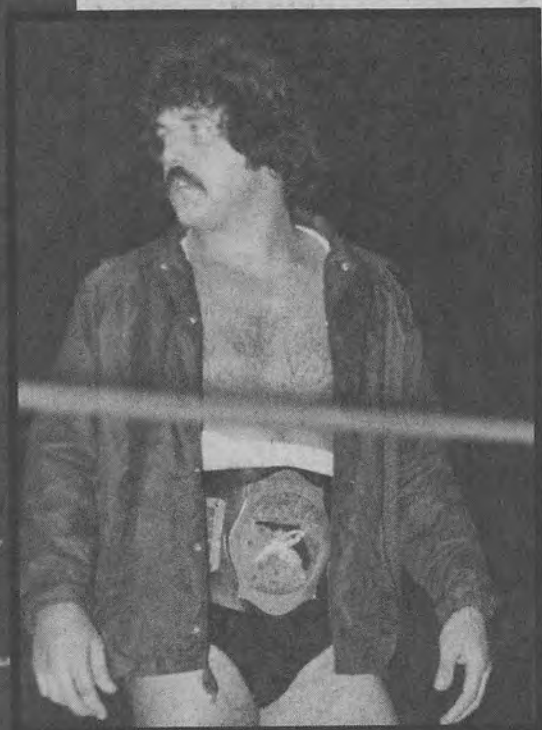
Steve Keirn wants to accomplish something *everyone* says is impossible. He wants to continue

STEVE KEIRN'S



some reason, people like to get on our backs. Maybe they resent us because we're young and talented. I don't know. I do know that it caused much unnecessary trouble for us.

"Mike and I would be wrestling and, no matter what we did, there'd always be some joker in the locker



Jim Garvin has been wrestling more frequently in singles competition since Keirn has begun wrestling part-time with Mike Graham.

his partnership and defense of the Florida title with Garvin. *And* he wants to wrestle with Graham.

"Why can't I?" asked Keirn, his voice hoarse. "People always say you can't do something, even

before you try to do it. Why can't I continue to wrestle with both Garvin and Graham?

"Mike and I have had to endure an awful lot of unwarranted criticism," Keirn continued. "For

room after the match asking when one of us would challenge for a major title, like Race's or Bockwinkel's.

"I think a big thing is that people
(Continued on page 50)

Steve Keirn asks little more than to be left alone. It seems that the whole world is telling him to make a choice. He feels he doesn't have to. Can Keirn wrestle with two different partners? Or will loyalty to both bring disaster to himself?

PHOTOS BY PAUL BAUMAN

DIVIDED LOYALTY

COLLECTOR'S CORNER

WRESTLING MAGAZINE

It was simply titled "WRESTLING." And it was the first serious attempt to establish a magazine devoted entirely to professional wrestling which had a regular frequency and a world-wide distribution. The five issues of **WRESTLING** magazine are perhaps the most sought-after collector's back issues now made available to you.



JANUARY 1951
(First Issue) Wrestling King of Sports, Toots Mondt, Wrestling Whirl, Andre Drapp, How To Feel Like A Champ, How To Wrestle, Wrestling Girls, History of Wrestling, Rocca (First Published Story), Frank Gotch's Life, Most Colorful Stars, George Hackenschmidt, Kings of Mat

\$30

MARCH 1951—Human Side, Wrestling Whirl, How to Wrestle, New Faces, Popularity Ratings, Strangler Lewis' Life, Sumo Wrestling, Yukon Eric's Life, Wrestler vs. Boxer, Strong Arms, June Byers' Life, George Hackenschmidt vs. Frank Gotch

\$30

MAY 1951—Letters, Wrestling Whirl, The Cauliflower Ear, Promoter Frank Tunney, Jim Londos' Life, Nell Stewart, Quiz, Great Togo, Gene Stanlee, Mongolian Wrestling, Frank Gotch Again Beats Hackenschmidt, Top Ten Villains, How to Wrestle

\$30

JUNE 1951—Editorial, Promoter Sam Muchnick, Wrestling Whirl, Ella Waldick, Kenny Ackles, Everett Marshall's Life, Joe Stecher vs. Jim Browning, Torturous Holds, Chief Don Eagle's Life, Turkish Wrestling, Tag Matches, Ratings, Rocca Describes His Toughest Match, Mystery Wrestler

\$30

BOXING & WRESTLING

After five issues, **WRESTLING** magazine changed its name to **BOXING & WRESTLING**. Continuing its high standard in wrestling, the addition of boxing stories made it one of the most popular sports magazines of the '50s. Some of the back issues listed in this ad can be obtained now by the general public for the first time in more than 25 years. As you would expect, supplies are very, very limited.

NOVEMBER 1951 Boxing—John L. Sullivan, TV Favorites, Lew Jenkins, News of the Month, Joe Louis Kayoes Lee Savold, How's Business, Harry Greb, Jimmy Carter Wins Lightweight Crown, Can Robinson Beat Maxim, Historic Photos, Jack Dempsey's Record, Results of the Month, Cartoon

Wrestling—Superman Lou Thesz, Girl Star Nell Stewart, Ratings, The Garibaldi Clan, Bert Assirati, Greatest Matches, Gus Sonnenberg Beats Strangler Lewis

\$25

DECEMBER 1951 Boxing—Maxim Beats Sailor Murphy, Gavilan Beats Billy Graham, Jim Corbett, Knockout Artists, Best Prospects, New Champion Randy Turpin, Upsets, Jersey Joe Walcott, Ratings, Marciano Challenges Walcott, Sandy Saddler (Life Story), Tex Rickard, Famous Fights of the Past, Fights of the Month

Wrestling—Verne Gagne, Ratings, TV Announcer Dennis James, Sandor Szabo, Matches of the Month, Pat Peeve, Sammy Berg, Mae Weston

\$25

JANUARY 1952 Boxing—Pep vs. Saddler, Gans vs. Kid Lavigne, Robinson vs. Turpin, Mickey Walker, Tricksters, Tony Janiro, Barney Ross's Record, Tex Rickard, Roland LaStarza, Leonard vs. Kilbane, Rocky Marciano, Ratings, Knockouts

Wrestling—Yvon Robert, Wrestling Whirl, Sky Hi Lee, Matches of the Month, Pacific Coast Championship, George Hackenschmidt, Indian Wrestlers, Ruffy Silverstein, Ratings, Londos vs. Shikat

\$25

FEBRUARY 1952 Boxing—Fights of the Month, Trouble with Boxing, Young Prospects, Tony Canzoneri, Bob Fitzsimmons, Rocky Graziano, Unusual Incidents, Predictions for 1952, Willie Lewis vs. Sailor Burke, Ratings (Marciano Fighter of Month), Tex Rickard Story

Wrestling—Dirty Duseks, Cora Combs, Wrestling Whirl, Matches of Month, The Original Terrible Turk, How to Improve Wrestling, Ratings

\$25

MARCH-APRIL 1952 Boxing—Fights of the Month, Million Dollar Gates, Gene Tunney's Record, Heavyweights of 1952, Trouble with Boxing, Jim Jeffries, Henry Armstrong, Dumb Dan Morgan, Rocky Marciano, Jersey Joe Walcott, Tex Rickard Story, Ezzard Charles, Jimmy Carter vs. Art Aragon

Wrestling—Fred Von Schacht, Frank Gotch Record, Midgets, Wrestling Whirl, Millie Stafford, Matches of Month, Max Baer in Wrestling, Ratings, Promoter Billy Thom of Indianapolis, Good Old Days

\$25

MAY 1952 Boxing—Fights of the Month, Greatest Heavyweights, Johnny Dundee, Harry Matthews, Ratings, Benny Leonard's Record, Tex Rickard Story, Kid Gavilan, Battling Nelson vs. Ad Wolgast Classic, Tommy Burns, New N.Y. Boxing Commissioner Bob Christenberry, Bobby Dykes

Wrestling—Whipper Watson, Old Timers, Wrestling Whirl, Verne Gagne, Great Gama, Matches of Month, Primo Carnera, Ratings, Strangler Lewis, Girl Wrestling in Germany

\$25

JUNE 1952 Boxing—Fights of the Month, Gil Turner, Max Schmeling, Jack Johnson, Ratings, Stillman's Gym, Chico Vejar, Flyweights and Bantamweights, Tex Rickard Story, Paddy DeMarco, Max Baer's Record

Wrestling—Lord Carlton, Ratings, Mars Bennett, Human Sides, Tony Lanza, Wrestling Whirl, Good Old Days, Whipper Watson, Matches of Month, San Francisco Promoter Joe Malcewicz

\$25

JULY 1952 Boxing—Fights of the Month, Joe Baksi, Jess Willard, Manager Al Weill, Abe Attell, Danny Nardico, Fighters Are Human, Tex Rickard Story, Famous Filipinos, Norman Hayes, Ratings

Wrestling—Lord Blears, My Toughest Bouts by Lou Thesz, Wrestling Whirl, Matches of Month, Texas Rasslin', Ratings, Ivan Kamiroff, It Began With Milo, Good Old Days

\$25

AUGUST 1952 Boxing—Highlights, Paddy Young, Sammy Mandell, Trainer Doc Bagler, Jack Dempsey, Keeney Teran and Gil Cadillac, Tex Rickard Story, Lew Tendler, TV From Miami, From Knockdown to Victory, Ratings

Wrestling—Dirty Dick Raines, Good Old Days, Whipper Watson, How Girl Wrestlers Keep Fit, Ratings, Adrian Baillargeon, Wrestling Whirl, Matches of Month, Mighty Atlas

\$25

NOVEMBER 1952 Boxing—Highlights, Joey Maxim Beats Ray Robinson, Billy Graham, Jack Britton, Jews in Boxing, Robert Villemain, Ratings, Jack Dempsey, Interview, Ray Robinson compared to Harry Greb and Mickey Walker, Jack Sharkey

Wrestling—Frank Sexton, Chief Don Eagle, Nell Stewart-Girl Star, Lou Thesz vs. Barone Leone, How They Broke Into Wrestling, Matches of Month, Wrestling Whirl, Ratings, Joe and Billy Varga—Father and Son Wrestlers

\$30

DECEMBER 1952 Boxing—Rocky Marciano, Highlights: Rex Layne Beats Ezzard Charles, etc., Fighting French, Johnny Bratton, Jackie 'Kid' Berg, Boxing Humor, Tommy Garr, Comparing old and new greats, Dave Davey, Primo Carnera, Ratings, Dressing Room Drama, Dramatic Incidents

Wrestling—Killer Kowalski, Record of Gene Stanlee, Jack O'Reilly, Ratings, June Byers, Wrestling Whirl, Matches of Month, Tough Way To Make A Living, Hollywood Promoter Hugh Nichols

\$30

JANUARY 1953 Boxing—Marciano wins title from Walcott, Highlights of Month, The Negro in Boxing, Tommy Collins, Max Baer Story, Ted 'Kid' Lewis, Johnny Gonsalves, Managers' Mistakes, Ratings, Kid Herman, Sparring Partners, Gerald Dryer, Human Punching Bags

Wrestling—Fred Atkins, Rocca's Record, Disgusted Fans, Ratings, Lou Thesz, Wrestling Whirl, Ronnie Etchinson, Matches of Month, Al "Dragon" Tucker

\$40

MARCH 1953 Boxing—Fighting Talk, Highlights (Ezzard Charles Beats Cesar Brion; Johnny Bratton over Joe Miceli), New Jersey Champions in Every Division, Glen Flanagan, Joe Louis Story, Promoter Sam Silverman, Cleveland Williams, Boxing Jinxes, Jack Delaney, Ratings, What Makes a Champion, Johnny Risko

Wrestling—The Buddy Rogers Story, Fred Atkins, Wrestler vs. Boxer, Matches of Month, Fan Clubs, Mule Kick Marlin, Wrestling Whirl, Ratings, Matt Kosternich, Rick Starr, Lou Thesz vs. Gene Stanlee

\$30

APRIL 1953 Boxing—Fighting Talk, Fights in Review (Billy Graham vs. Joey Giardello; Tiger Jones vs. Johnny Bratton), Pat McMurry, Billy Miske, Ezzard Charles, Undeclared Johnny Saxton, Fidel LaBarba, Luis Firpo, Archie Moore Wins Title at Age 36, Jimmy McLarnin, Jack Dillon

Wrestling—Marvin Mercer, Matches of Month, Record of Yukon Eric, Killer Kowalski vs. Yukon Eric, Man Mountain Dean, Ratings, Wrestling Whirl, Fan Clubs, Promoter Al Mayer, Trading Holds

\$30

Some of the back issues in this ad have not been offered for sale for more than 25 years. All of these extremely rare magazines are from the personal collection of Stanley Weston, owner of the world's largest collection of wrestling memorabilia. This is indeed a once in a lifetime opportunity for the true collector to finally own these highly treasured but until now elusive editions. Obviously, the supplies of these issues are very limited, and they will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis. It is for that reason we urge you to list substitute choices when you order. This will avoid time wasted writing back and forth should a particular issue be sold out. The prices quoted are based on the rarity of the issue and the amount of available copies. For fastest service, payment should be made by money order or certified check. While cash will be accepted, we cannot assume responsibility when it is sent through the mails. All sales are final and no exchanges will be made.

SEPTEMBER 1952 Boxing—Highlights, Fighting Italians, George Araujo, Pancho Villa, Trainer Charlie Goldman, Willie Troy, Ratings, Boxing Confidential, Gene Tunney, Jackie Fields

Wrestling—Bobby Managoff, Lou Thesz's Record, Ratings, Matches of Month, Tim Geohagen, William Muldoon, Wrestling Whirl

\$25

OCTOBER 1952 Boxing—Highlights (Walcott vs. Charles; Carter loses to Salas, etc.), Lauro Salas, Stanley Ketchel, Irish Champions, Chuck Davey, Max Schmeling, Ratings, Joe Miceli, Strange Experiences, Willie Pep tells about his loss to Sandy Saddler, Boxing Medicine Man Dr. Nardiello

Wrestling—Riki Dozan, Their Hardest Battles, Matches of Month, Ray Gunkel, Tough Turks, Wrestling Whirl, Ratings, Record of Verne Gagne

\$25

MAY 1953 Boxing—Fighting Talk, Fights in Review (Danny Nardico upsets Jake LaMotta, Rocky Castellani beats Tiger Jones), Kid Gavilan kayoes Chuck Davey to retain crown, Roland LaStarza tops Rex Layne, The Dundee Brothers, Baltimore's Great Fighters, Saga of John Morrissey, Tommy Loughran, Ratings, Middleweight Muddle, Charlie White

Wrestling—Fred Curry, Elvira Snodgrass, Matches of Month, Great Togo, Ruffy Silverstein, Trading Holds, Record of Buddy Rogers, Ratings, Wrestling Whirl, Fan Clubs

\$30

OCTOBER 1953 Boxing—Fighting Talk, Fights of the Month, Dan Baccaroni, Promoter Lew Raymond, Arthur Persley, Light Heavyweight History, Best Heavyweight Bets, Jackie 'Kid' Berg upsets Tony Canzoneri, Floyd

Patterson, Charlie 'Phil' Rosenberg, Your Boxing I.Q., Ratings
Wrestling—Leo Nomellini, Johnny Barend, Ratings, Record of Sonny Myers, Violet Viann, Matches of Month, Frank Gotch, Wrestling Whirl, Fan Clubs, Trading Holds \$30

DECEMBER 1953 Boxing—Fighting Talk, Marciano kayoes Roland LaStarza (title), Fights of Month, Referee's Problem, Tony Galento and Manager Joe Jacobs, Philadelphia History, Five Best Lightweight Bets, Middleweight History, Battling Siki, Primo Carnera Kills Ernie Schaaf, Jimmy Slattery, Ratings
Wrestling—Lucky Simonovich, Ratings, Mighty Atlas, Reggie Lisowski, Yvon Robert, Matches of Month, Fan Clubs, Wrestling Whirl \$30

FEBRUARY 1954 Boxing—Fighting Talk, Fights of Month, Nino Valdez, Mickey Walker, Hein Ten Hoff, Featherweight History, Boxing Quiz, Luther McCarty, Joe Louis vs. Bob Pastor, Jack Johnson vs. Tommy Burns, Stanley Ketchel, Harry Greb, Ratings
Ratings—Bill Melby, Primo Carnera, Matches of Month, Raphael Halpern—The Wrestling Rabbi, Ratings, Len Hughes, Fan Clubs, Leo Nomellini, Wrestling Whirl, Remember When \$35

MARCH 1954 Boxing—Fighting Talk, Fights of Month, 'Red Top' Davis, Bantamweight History, Commissioner Frank Wiener, Earl Wals, Ratings, Power of Punch, Bat Battalino vs. Kid Chocolate, Amateurs, Your Boxing I.Q., Ace Hudkins
Wrestling—Dennis Clary, Sandor Kovacs, Ratings, Dory Funk Sr., Matches of Month, Gossip, Wrestling Whirl, Hans Schmidt, Trading Holds, Record of Lord Blears \$35

MAY 1954 Boxing—Fighting Talk, Former Champions Speak Out, Fights of Month, Rocky Castillo, Joey Giambra, Stanley Ketchel, Tommy Burns, Billy Peacock, Henry Armstrong Wins Title From Petey Sarron, Training, Boxing Quiz, Jimmy Wilde, Ratings
Wrestling—Don Leo Jonathan, Eric Pederson, Trading Holds, Top Money Makers, Tarzan White, Matches of Month, Duke Keomaka, Fan Clubs, Remember When \$35

JULY 1954 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Fighting Talk, Fights of Month, French Invasion, Archie Moore Can Beat Marciano, Bat Masterson, Gil Turner, Harlem Tommy Murphy, Holly Mims, Vince Dundee vs. Len Harvey, Vince Martinez, Your Boxing I.Q., Ratings, Bud Taylor
Wrestling—Tor Yamato, The Larsen Brothers, New Jersey Stars, Ida Mae Martinez, Matches of Month, Frank Jaras, Gossip, Fan Clubs, Wrestling Whirl \$35

AUGUST 1954 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Fighting Talk, Marciano vs. Charles Fight, Fight of Month, Manager Al Weill, Britain's John Sullivan, Al Davis, 'Hurricane' Jackson, Ratings, Battling Nelson's Life, Vince Martinez, Benny Leonard vs. Jimmy McLarnin, Carmine Fiore, Joe Lynch, Quiz
Wrestling—Ray Eckert, Ratings, 'Traacherous' Phillips, June Byers, Matches of Month, Gypsy Joe, Gossip, Trading Holds \$35

OCTOBER 1954 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Fighting Talk, Fights of Month, Joey Giardello Says He'll Kayo Bobo Olson, Harry Greb's Life, Cisco Andrade, Weighing Ins, Tiberio Mitri Kayoes Randy Turpin, Jack Dempsey vs. Bill Brennan, Walter Cartier, TV is Killing Boxing, Quiz, Ratings, Lew Tendler
Wrestling—Bobo Brazil, Gloria Barratini, Results of Month, Al Kashey, Wrestling Whirl, Rocky Columbo, Light Heavyweight Champs, Fan Clubs, Trading Holds \$35

NOVEMBER 1954 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, Can Marciano Be Beaten? Sam Langford's Life, Al Andrews, Managers Art Winch & Sam Plan, Billy Lauderdale, Max Schmeling vs. Harry Thomas, Carmelo Costa, Quiz, Ratings, Promoter Norm Rothschild, Stanley Ketchel vs. Jack O'Brien, Maxie Rosenbloom
Wrestling—Nell Stewart, Baron Leone, Canadian Champs, Enrique Torres, Matches of Month, Art Neilson, Wrestling Whirl, Dick Raines-Abe Kashey Feud, Gossip \$55

DECEMBER 1954 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Matches of Month, Cisco Andrade, Ezzard Charles writes about Marciano, Bare Knuckle Fighters, Tony DeMarco, Jimmy Braddock, Maxie Rosenbloom's Life, Paul Andrews, Tony Galento vs. Lou Nova, Benny Leonard, Quiz, Dempsey vs. Fred Fulton, Quiz
Wrestling—Bob Orton, Matches of Month, Cowboy Carlson, Mars Bennett, California Champs, Al Costello, Wrestling Whirl, Gossip, Fan Clubs \$25

FEBRUARY 1955 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, Nino Valdez Says "I'll Beat Marciano," Billy Petrolle's Life, Carmen Basilio Challenges Johnny Saxton, Bare Knuckle Fighters, Lou Stillman, Jim Corbett vs. Joe Choyinski, Jack Delany, Jack Johnson Compared to Modern Fighters, Why Black Fighters Are Tops, Quiz, Ratings, Jimmy McLarnin
Wrestling—Billy Varga, Ratings, Violet Viann, Verne Gagne, Speaks Out, Matches of Month, Sonny Myers, Wrestling Whirl, Gossip, How To Start A Fan Club \$25

MARCH 1955 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, Kid Gavilan, Cisco Andrade, Eugene Criqui, Ratings, Writer Dan Parker, Best Heavyweight Of All, Charley Powell, Young Griffo, Kid McCoy vs. Tom Sharkey, Willie Ritchie, Quiz, Pedro Montanez
Wrestling—Gorgeous George, Matches of Month, Jack Witzig, Ike Eakins, Texas Tough Guys, Little Black Dynamite, Wrestling Whirl, Fan Clubs \$25

APRIL 1955 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Archie Moore Blasts Marciano, Robert Cohen, Joe Choyinski's Life, Strike By Managers' Guild, 'Boardwalk' Billy Smith, Ad Wolgast vs. Joe Rivers, Fake Fights, St. Nick's Arena, TV Fights of 1954, Paul Berlenbach, Quiz, Ratings \$25

MAY 1955 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, Jimmy Carter, Trainer Whitey Bimstein's Secrets, Pancho Villa's Life, Frankie Ryff, Ray Robinson's Comeback, Las Darcy, Charley Norkus, Max Baer Kayoes Max Schmeling, Bob Fitzsimmons, Quiz, Ratings, Barney Ross
Wrestling—Primo Carnera, Roy McClarity, Matches of Month, Southwest Champs, Great Scott, Killer Kowalski Strength Secrets, Wrestling Whirl, Fan Clubs, Gossip, Full Color Pin Up of Buddy Rogers \$20

JUNE 1955 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, Eduardo Lausse, Tony Canzoneri's Life, Tiger Jones and Bobby Jones, How Marciano is Managed, Lou Brouillard's Life, Bob Baker, Matchmaker Teddy Brenner, Ten Deadliest Punches, Tommy Ryan vs. Sandow, Ruby Goldstein, Ratings, Quiz
Wrestling—Yukon Eric, Pacific Coast Powerhouses, Billy Goetz, Wrestling Whirl, Manuel Cortez, Matches of Month, Bob Geigel, Fan Clubs, Full Color Pinup of Billy Varga \$25

JULY 1955 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Rocky Marciano Crushes Don Cockell, Fights of Month, Chico Vejar, Tony Canzoneri's Life (conclusion), Carmen Basilio describes his war with Tony DeMarco, Fight Nite At St. Nick's, Jimmy Soo, Fantasy Fight with Joe Walcott, Ludwig Lightburn, Benny Leonard vs. Ever Hammer, Philadelphia Jack O'Brien, Ratings, Quiz
Wrestling—'Tiger' Joe Marsh, Matches of Month, Timmy Geohagen, TV Stars, Yukon Eric Tells How To Build Muscles, Was Henri DeGiane a Nazi? Wrestling Whirl, Fan Clubs, Full Color Pinup of Frankie Talaber \$25


AUGUST 1955 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, Floyd Patterson, Tony DeMarco, Boxing's Mouthpiece, Mickey Walker, Joe Rowan, Fritz Zivic batters Henry Armstrong, Fighting Irish, Joey Lopes, Sam Langford vs. Stanley Ketchel, Quiz, Luis Firpo, Ratings
Wrestling—'Legs' Langevin, Yukon Eric, Matches of Month, Promoter Eddie Quinn, Most Dangerous Holds, Joe Cassius, Wrestling Whirl, Gossip, Full Color Pin Up Of Leo Nomellini \$25

SEPTEMBER 1955 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, Rocky Castellani, Promoter Jim Norris, Fight Afternoon, Rudy Garcia, Abe Attell, Billy Graham Quits, Terry McGovern vs. Pedler Palmer, Pat McMurry, Al Singer, Willie Jackson, Ratings, Quiz
Wrestling—Leo Nomellini, Do Black Wrestlers Get Fair Shake? Matches of Month, Crazy Kalmikoffs, Hans Schnabel, Wrestling Whirl, Al & Tiny Mills, Gossip, Wrestling Stinks! Full Color Pin Up of Big Bill Miller \$25

OCTOBER 1955 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, The Real Marciano, Frankie Carbo, Carmen Basilio, John L. Sullivan vs. Charley Mitchell, Carmelo Costa, Jack Dempsey (Part 1), Paddy Young, Archie Moore, Joe Benjamin, Ratings, Quiz
Wrestling—Hans Herman, Matches of Month, Strangler Lewis, One World's Title! Sky Hi Lee, Wrestling Whirl, Kamikaze Kinji, Hans Schmidt, Full Color Pin Up of Lord Blears \$25

WRESTLING REVUE


WRESTLING REVUE (1959-1964) is thought to be the finest series of wrestling magazines ever published. These beautiful editions (all edited and published by Stanley Weston) set a standard by which all of today's wrestling magazines are judged. The magnificent back issues in this ad, many of which contain spectacular full-color inserts, have been unavailable to the public for more than 10 years. Supplies of these collector's treasures are very limited.



Fall 1959
 The first issue, edited and published by Stanley Weston, established a new style for wrestling magazines. This classic first issue, printed on heavy, coated paper, contains eight pages of full color pictures, plus front and back covers, also in dazzling full color. Fifteen years ago, this extremely rare issue was being sold for \$50 per copy, the same price we are offering it to you now \$50

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TV WRESTLING ALBUM



THE CLASSIC 1960 TV WRESTLING ALBUM
 The first and still the Classic Album of all time. All 68 pages printed on the finest, heavy, coated paper. The Full Page portraits, 58 in all, of the world's greatest wrestlers of that era, some of whom are still active today, are all neatly bordered, ready for framing. And that cover! Ah, probably the greatest portrait of a wrestler ever taken, in full color. Buddy Rogers, champion at that time, is the subject. \$20

COLLECTOR'S CORNER

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SEND ME THE BACK ISSUES I'VE LISTED BELOW

Please write in magazine name and date
 For Example: "BOXING & WRESTLING Jan./1952"

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In The Event Any Of The Above Magazines Are Sold Out, I Will Accept The Substitute Issues Listed Below

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THEY CAME FROM every corner of the nation. Letters from Montana. From Texas. From Ohio. From Florida. From New York. Letters typed. Handwritten. Printed. Young and old, rich and poor. The message was consistent.

They pleaded with Superstar Billy Graham to turn good. He had asked the fans to help him decide the future. Graham was disturbed, confused, uneasy

about the uncertain path he found himself on. In a stunning reversal, he approached the editors of THE WRESTLER and asked if the magazine would help him elicit the fans' responses. Graham wanted the fans to decide whether he should be good or bad.

The fans wrote in their responses. THE WRESTLER provided two stories. One for the initial question. One for the

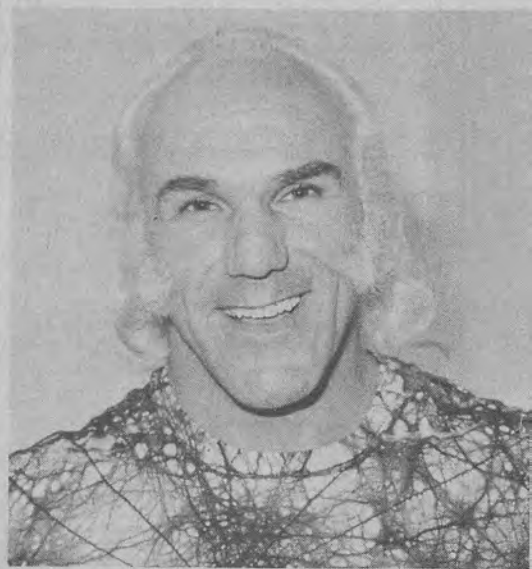
answer. And the answer was overwhelming.

We called Graham and told him to come up to the office. The ballots were in. He'd be surprised at the results.

"Superstar Graham should turn good because he's great and he'd kill Backlund," wrote Nino Espanol of Brooklyn.

"He does not have to break the rules to win," wrote Vince Gaiter of Dania, Florida.

SUPERSTAR GRAHAM: "HOW I FOOLED THE FANS"



How much time was wasted?

How many stamps and envelopes were wasted?

How much magazine space was wasted? How much trust was wasted? Superstar Graham asked the fans to decide his future and now he laughs in their faces

"He has proven he can beat the good guys," wrote Dave Van Spankeren of Green Bay, Wisconsin. "Now he should be a good guy to prove he can beat the bad guys and be number one."

"With so many goons like Peter Maivia and Paul Jones turning bad, it would be great to have a wrestler like Superstar on the good guys' side," wrote Tim Wargo of Roslyn, Pennsylvania.

"People would like him better if he did turn good guy," wrote Arlene Anders of Corbin, Kentucky.

Naturally, there were a few differing voices tossed in, fans who respected Graham for his achievements. But they were a distinct minority. On the whole, fans responded to Graham's plea with warmth. What they received was a shocking betrayal.

We presented Graham two

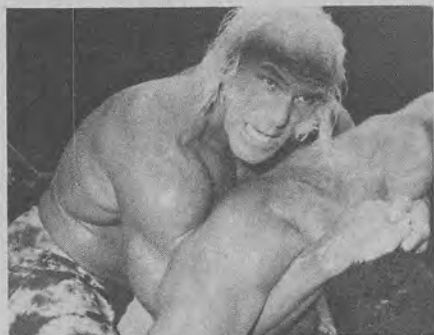
huge sackfuls of letters, approximately five thousand. He grinned, then calmly took the sacks and emptied them into our wastebaskets.

"Surprise, surprise," Graham shouted maniacally. "You dopes went along with it. Fools," Graham screamed, his face convulsed with evil joy. "You guys are awful stupid to think I'd ever go along with anyone those moron fans would say."

At this point, Graham nearly doubled over with laughter. Our office was silenced by shame.

"I never planned on listening to the fans," said Graham. "To be honest, I didn't think you writers were stupid enough to believe me. The fans, well, they're all idiots, so whatever they say doesn't surprise me."

"So I wasn't surprised, no, not at all, when they thought I should turn good guy. *Good*

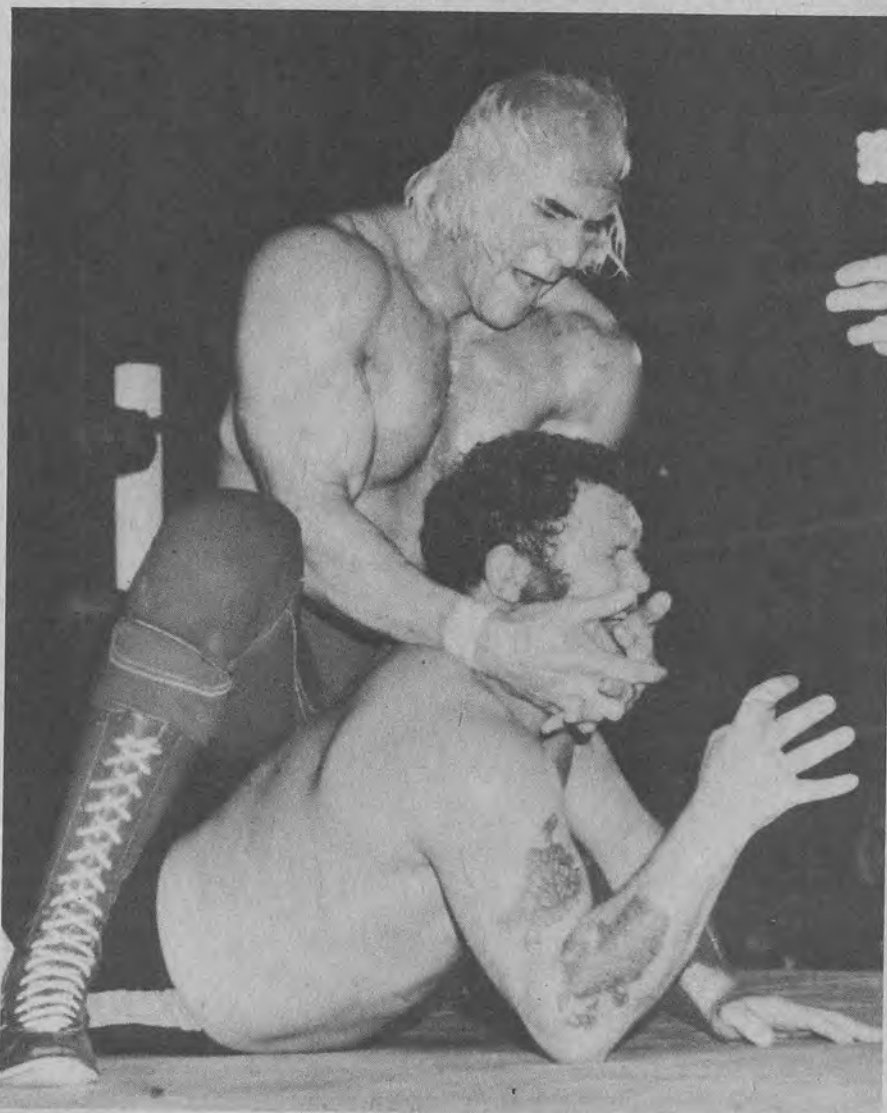


Occasionally, Billy Graham shows a good knowledge of wrestling holds (above), but he prefers more vicious confrontations such as the strap match with Dusty Rhodes (below). Graham said he will never change, despite the wishes of the wrestling fans.





Superstar in action: Attacking Ivan Putski (above left), bodyslamming Bob Backlund during a steel cage match (above center), bearhugging Peter Maivia (above right), and applying a chin hold to Harley Race. Graham will wrestle the toughest and meanest, but he knows he'll get no support from the fans.



guy? Superstar Graham, the best, the baddest, the toughest dude who ever lived acting like one of them pansies, one of them clowns? Is there *anyone* that stupid to think I would change my style, the style which brought me the title, which smashed Sammartino's face, the title which was stolen by that hick fool Backlund?"

Yes, Superstar Graham, there were nearly five thousand believing, earnest fans who thought you might go straight. They trusted you, though the reasons for that trust were obviously artificial.

These fans believed in you, Superstar. They actually felt you wanted to make a positive contribution to pro wrestling. They sincerely filled out their ballots, pondered long and hard, really cared about you.

"Idiots!" Graham sneered.

Our staff retreated into an angry stillness. But our editor-in-chief, Peter King, would not let Graham's treachery go unanswered.

"You make us all sick," snapped King. "Get out of this office."

Graham didn't change. Like the coward he really is, Superstar slunk out the door. □

INTRODUCING EDDIE GILBERT

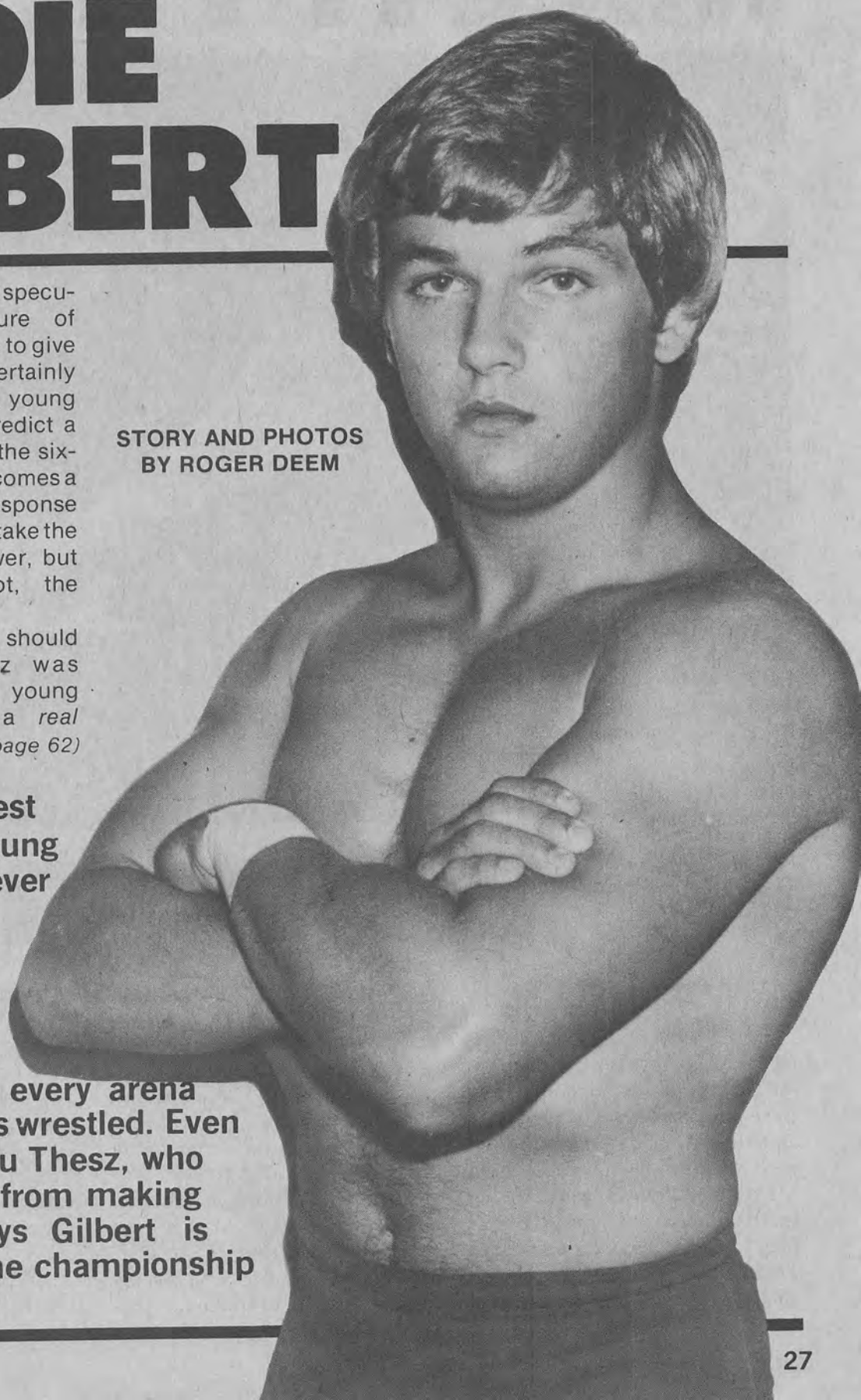
LOU THESZ RARELY speculates on the future of a wrestler. He is not one to give false praise and he is certainly not one to put down a young wrestler. Ask him to predict a wrestler's success and the six-time NWA champion becomes a master politician. His response will be enough words to take the appearance of an answer, but more often than not, the question still remains.

Young Eddie Gilbert should be flattered. Thesz was questioned about the young prospect and gave a *real*

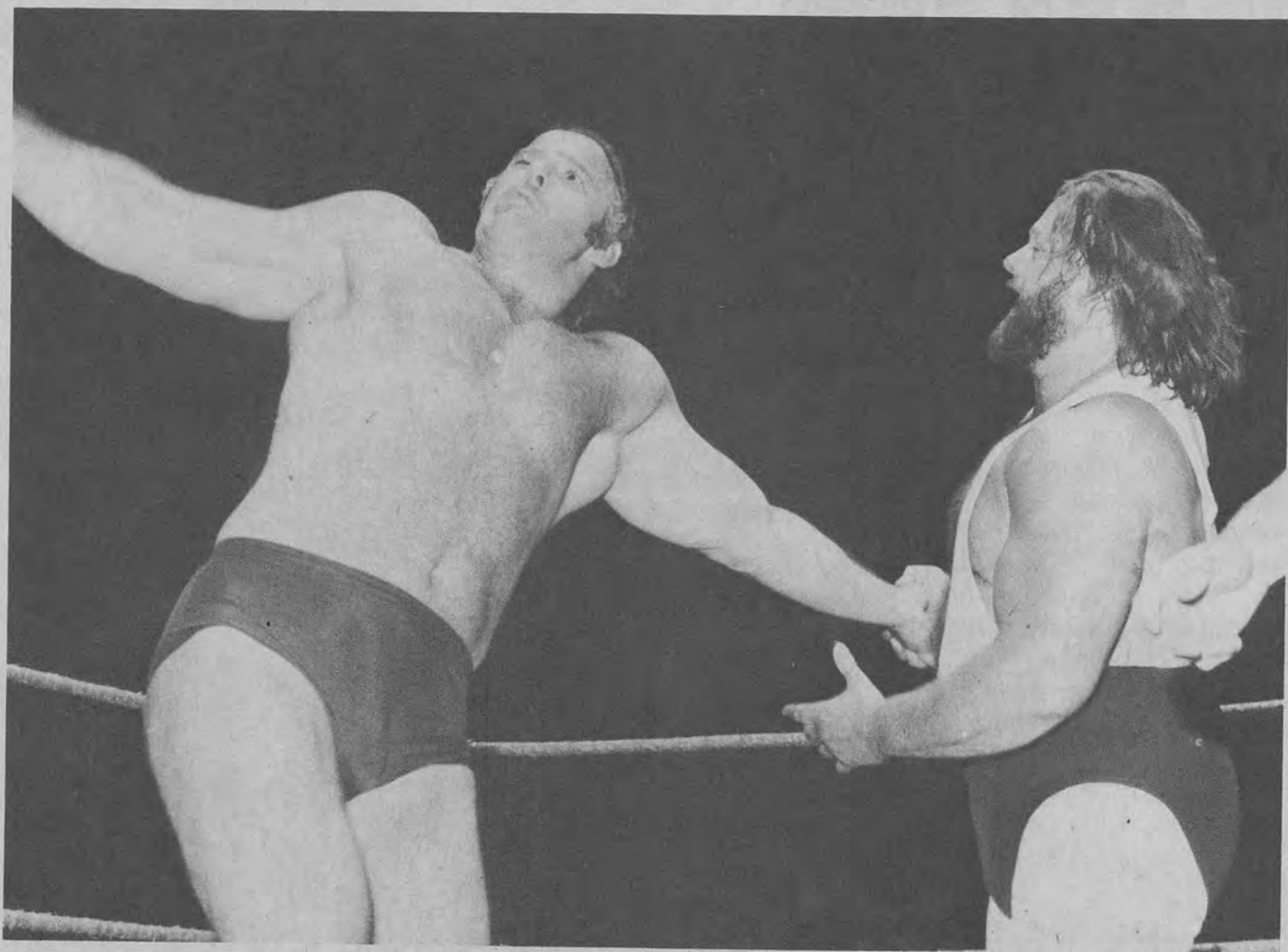
(Continued on page 62)

STORY AND PHOTOS
BY ROGER DEEM

He's had the best teachers any young wrestler could ever hope for, the most influential being his father. Eddie Gilbert has received rave reviews in every arena in which he has wrestled. Even the immortal Lou Thesz, who usually refrains from making predictions, says Gilbert is destined for the championship



THE NIGHT MIGHTY IGOR



OUTSMARTED

BY MATT BROCK

THEY HAD A couple of hours to kill before the plane landed in Detroit. They were coming from Houston. They were Mark Lewin and his manager, Gary Hart. They were coming to destroy Mighty Igor.

Everyone knows who Mighty Igor is. Everyone knows what he's like. Kind. Decent. Generous. Thoughtful. Without the beard and the always present kielbasi, he'd be a Boy Scout. By way

of Warsaw.

Nice people are generally underrated. Igor is no exception. When Hart told Lewin he'd be coming to Detroit, Mark went into rigorous training. Weights and jogging. Stayed away from sweets. Tough, Spartan dedication.

Then Hart told him who the opponent would be. Lewin laughed. Lewin said he could do anything he wanted to Igor. He said Igor couldn't handle him. Lewin stopped jogging. Stopped

lifting the weights. He had three Milky Way bars on the flight.

Mark Lewin made a big mistake. It almost cost him his scalp.

When in doubt, break a rule. That motto's been around since Killer Kowalski. Lewin believes in it. Hart likes it even more. Well, Hart doesn't have to get his face twisted like a piece of Play-Do. Lewin does.

So Lewin lagged on his physical training. But not on his mental preparation. Such as it is, Hart

Mighty Igor is known for his enormous strength. But sometimes strength alone is not enough to win wrestling matches. Igor devised a special strategy for Mark Lewin that would have made Muhammad Ali proud

PHOTOS BY BRAD McFARLIN



Mark Lewin learned that Mighty Igor is not to be taken lightly. Though Igor suffered a deep scalp wound, his strategy was better planned and he was in better shape than Lewin.



Igor realizes that men like Lewin and Hart will underestimate him. Wrestlers in Detroit don't underestimate Igor. When they made that mistake, they were battered from one end of the ring to the other.

But coming from out of the area and brimming with arrogance, it was natural that Lewin and Hart would consider Igor a pushover. Mighty Igor planned on Lewin being lax in his training. He expected Hart would interfere with a foreign

MARK LEWIN

assured his wrestler that he'd jump in at the right moment.

So Mark Lewin and Gary Hart landed in Detroit supremely confident they would demolish Igor. They were armed with arrogance and their own twisted sense of what is right and wrong. Winning, regardless of the method, is correct. Losing, no matter how honorable the defeat, is bad.

There was one slight miscalculation in this equation. They expected Igor would fall for this

ploy. They were wrong.

You've all heard of the "rope-a-dope?" Well, Mighty Igor created a grappling version of Muhammad Ali's masterful strategy in Zaire. It's called . . . ready?

"Pole-a-dope."

Once more. *Pole-a-dope!*

Only an ingenuous mind like Mighty Igor could conceive of such a brilliant maneuver. It was so simple, so innocent as to accurately reflect the kind genius which created it.

object. That was part of Igor's plan.

Let Lewin tire himself with feeble maneuvers until, exhausted, he would be no match for Igor. At this point, Hart would feel compelled to enter. Igor had done his homework.

It worked! Lewin ran the gamut of maneuvers, none of them effective. Near the end, he was tired, almost staggering from fatigue. Hart interfered, causing the disqualification of Lewin. Igor won. □

DUSTY RHODES -



**“KILLER KOX WILL
MAKE ME
NWA CHAMPION!”**

Dusty Rhodes was correct. His brutal strap match with Killer Karl Kox set him up perfectly for his title shot with Harley Race. Now Dusty is NWA champion and he has only thanks for Kox, the man he put in the hospital

(Editor's note: The following was written before Dusty Rhodes won the NWA title from Harley Race. We felt its relevance to the title match made it worthy of publication.)

DUSTY RHODES HELD out his arms, closed his eyes, and gritted his teeth. The doctor cut the blood-soaked straps that dangled from his wrists and examined the damage. "You'll live," he said with a doctor's sarcasm, and then continued. "You guys are great business for me. You should see Killer Karl Kox. There was nothing I could do for him here. They just drove him off in an ambulance."

Dusty smiled between clenched teeth as the doctor sponged peroxide into the open wounds. "I don't understand why you guys wrestle with straps on," the doctor said to Rhodes without looking up. "You call yourself the winner? Sure, you don't have to go to the hospital, but I would recommend that you don't wrestle for at least a week to 10 days."

Dusty attempted to explain. "Doc," he asked, "did you ever have a patient who you tried and tried to convince to come in for an examination? You knew that they weren't in the best of health and were long overdue. Well, you couldn't get them to come to the office so you went to their house to examine them there, but they weren't home. Remember the frustration?"

"It happens all the time," the doctor said. "You want to put a leash around them and drag them to the office."

"Exactly," Rhodes said.

The doctor nodded. He realized that Rhodes was a desperate man given the opportunity of a lifetime. And the match went as expected. When you take two of the toughest wrestlers around, tie them together, and throw away the rulebook, what else can be expected?



A bloodied Dusty Rhodes aims his powerful right elbow at Killer Karl Kox during their strap match. When it was all over, Dusty was victorious and Kox had to be taken by ambulance to the hospital. This match, Rhodes believes, is his springboard to the championship.



Both wrestlers nearly collapsed from fatigue during this grueling match. Rhodes found the strength to win by imagining that Kox was actually Harley Race.

The two combatants exchanged blows amidst a pool of blood. But the referee was not empowered to stop the action. The straps were

used not only to keep the wrestlers together but as weapons. At one point, Kox choked Rhodes until Dusty's face began to change color.

The referee was powerless to do anything about it.

The ultimate goal for both wrestlers, of course, was to be the winner. In order to end the match, one participant had to drag the other completely around the ring touching all four ringposts along the way. Four times, Rhodes touched three posts before Kox recovered to prolong the bout. Kox dragged Dusty past two corners on two occasions.

The match went on and on. Both men lost a great deal of blood. Both appeared on the verge of collapse. Finally, Dusty's eyes opened wide. He pounded his fists into his chest and hit Kox in the nose with an open-handed right. He raised both arms in the air and screamed, "HARLEY!" With his new-found energy he began to run around the ring, Kox in tow, slapping each post on the way by. Rhodes was the winner. The crowd was delighted but extremely confused.

Why did Dusty cry, "Harley!" and where did the energy come from?

"There was a direct relationship," Rhodes said as the doctor began to examine his facial wounds. "This was an important match for me for two reasons. One, I wanted Kox. He's been a thorn in my side for quite a while and I was anxious for the chance to get him in a strap match. But perhaps more importantly, I felt I needed a match like this to get myself ready to win the title. Harley Race is on my mind during every conscious moment. Sometimes I even dream about him. Everything I do, I do with that NWA title in mind. In many ways, Kox is like Race. Their styles are often similar.

"You say I screamed out Race's name during this match? Wow, I don't even remember that. It just goes to show you. I yell his name and I get all this power. I'm ready man. I'm ready. I want Race and I want him now!" □

MILLIONS SOB AS VOLKOFF ATTACKS BRUNO

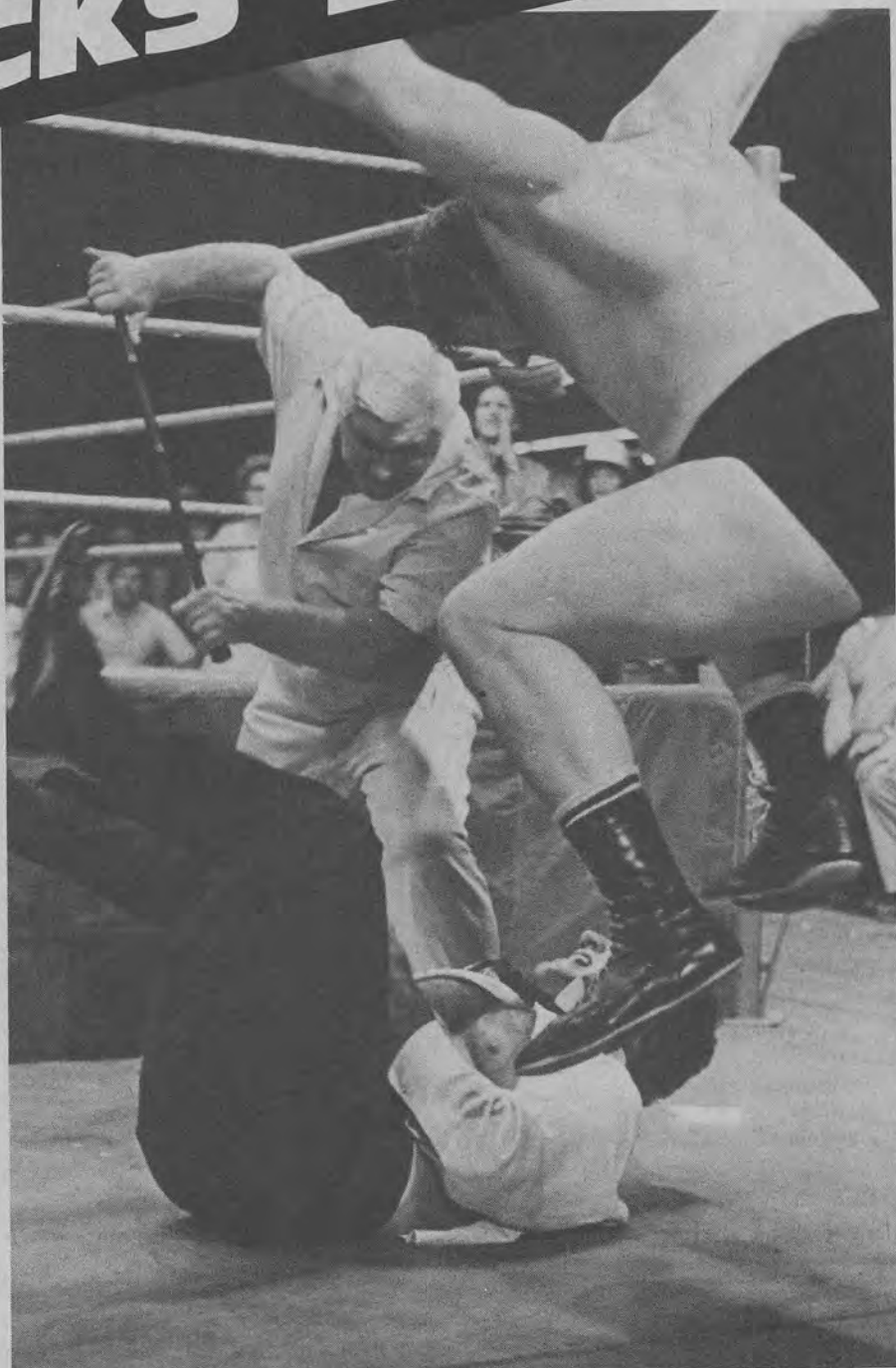
As Bruno Sammartino prepared for an arm wrestling match with Nikolai Volkoff, the former WWF champion and current TV commentator is attacked by Volkoff and his manager, Freddie Blassie.

“ME, JEALOUS OF that pencil-neck?” Fred Blassie smashed his cane against the wall sending the startled reporters back a few yards. Blassie tried to calm himself and make one more attempt at explaining his feelings about Bruno Sammartino.

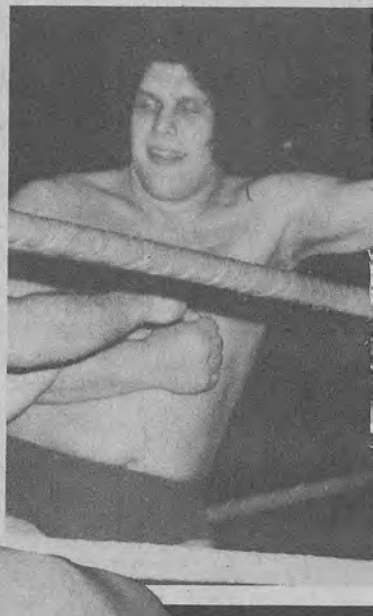
“You people call him the ‘Living Legend,’” he said. “Well I’m damn sick of hearing that. Do you remember a wrestler named Freddie Blassie. Classy Freddie Blassie. Well, what about him? I deserve to be remembered as the Living Legend, not that pencil neck spaghetti-bender.”

Little by little the reporters were beginning to understand. They had come to Blassie to find out why he and Nikolai Volkoff sneak-attacked Bruno during a television interview. Blassie would not discuss the incident. All he wanted to talk about was Bruno himself.

(Continued on page 64)



It was a premeditated and senseless attack. Bruno Sammartino only wanted to prove that Nikolai Volkoff was not as strong as Freddie Blassie claimed. He challenged Volkoff to an arm wrestling match that never took place. What actually happened was witnessed by shocked millions



IS ANDRE READY TO QUIT WRESTLING?

Torn between loyalty to his family and his love for wrestling, Andre the Giant is faced with the toughest decision of his life. How can he give up all that he has achieved in this country and return to his native France? But how can he ignore the pleas of his family?



Even when in combat, Andre always seemed to have a smile on his face. Now he is thinking about his family in France and he has stopped smiling. He's thinking of leaving wrestling.



EMPTY BOTTLES OF Perrier water clutter the Louis XIV desk. Posters of Paris line the walls. The Eiffel Tower. The Left Bank. The Seine. All the grace and dignity of France is captured in Andre the Giant's home.

All these years he's been wrestling overseas, Andre has had bouts of loneliness. Oh, to hear French spoken the way it was meant to be spoken. To savor a real pastry or a glass of wine from one of the lush vineyards.

Filet mignon with bordelais sauce. Those almond-sized eyes widen hungrily at the prospect. But Andre has managed to control the ache the separation has caused

him. Until now. But Andre is suffering. Andre is homesick.

Andre the Giant may just quit wrestling.

His misery cannot be ignored. It is real and painful. And it started from the unlikelyst of sources.

"I got a call from my cousin Germain," Andre said. "Germain and I were very close when we grew up in France. We would play together in my uncle's vineyards. There were many bottles of wine drunk between me and Germain.

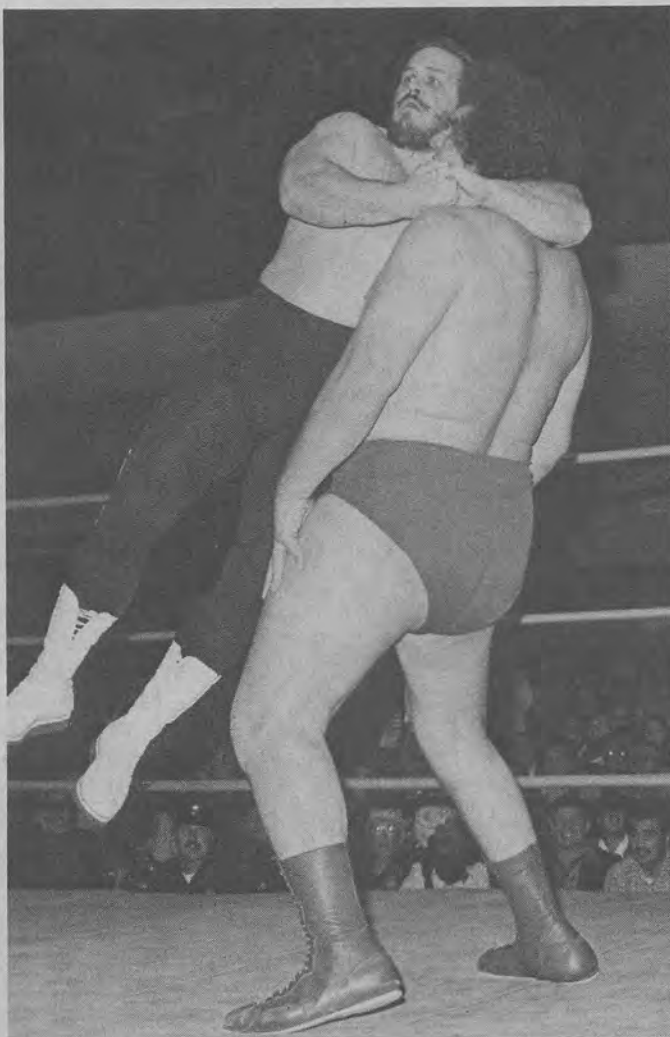
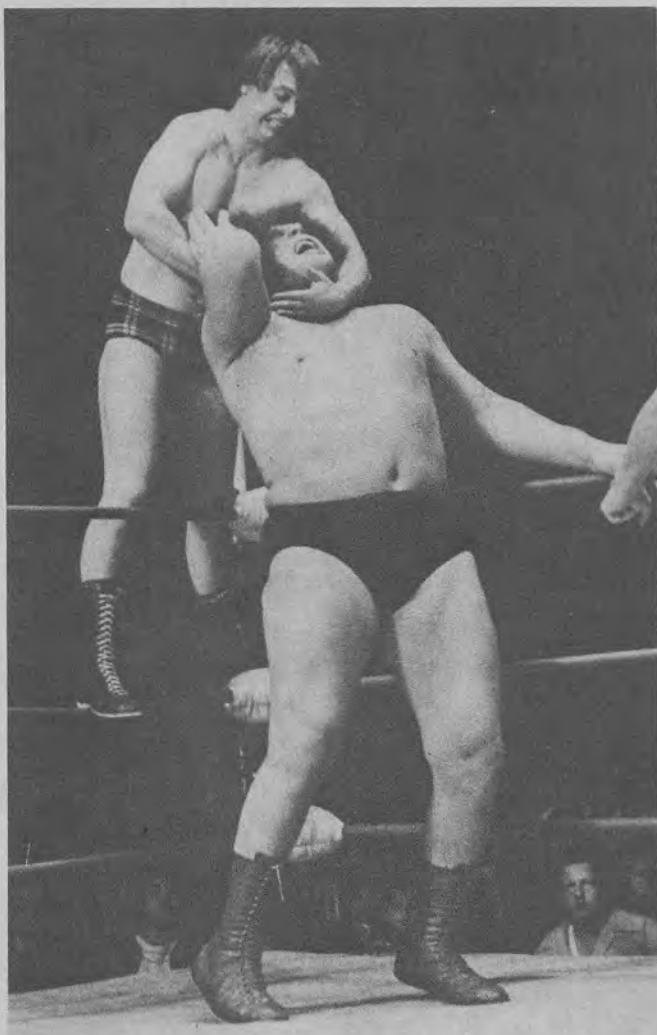
"Then I started growing very large. Germain felt a little inadequate compared to me. As a star athlete, I got all the pretty girls and Germain got all the empty

bottles of wine.

"We went our separate ways, Germain became a ship builder, something to do with rivets, I am not certain," Andre said, shrugging his immense shoulders. "After our childhood friendship, we never seemed able to recapture the warmth of our youth.

"I know he followed my every match. My uncle said Germain compiled a scrapbook which served as the family record book. I was flattered, but Germain rarely spoke to me directly," Andre continued.

"Germain is a fine fellow. After my uncle passed away, Germain became the glue to our family. He



Roddy Piper has to climb to the top rope to attack the Giant's face (left). Ron Bass has little luck bringing Andre to the mat (right). Andre loves to wrestle and he loves his fans, but an unfortunate chain of events might force his early retirement.

made all the decisions and gave away the brides, tasted the wine, baked bread, things which the head of a French family does. Then misfortune struck," Andre said, his eyes misting.

"Germain was out driving one evening with his fiancée, Elaine Tremblay. I knew her sister, Michelle. She has another sister, Joanne." Andre said, obviously evading the subject.

"Sorry, I seem to have wandered. It is not easy for me to discuss," Andre said, his lower lip quivering. "They were driving in Germain's little sports car when the front tires hit a wet patch on the road and the car skidded into a tree. Elaine was bruised. She was okay. Germain was not.

"Germain had his spine broken. He cannot move his legs. He cannot walk among the vineyards or reach the oven to turn up the bread," Andre said tearfully. "When Germain's brother, Roland, also my cousin, called and told me what had happened, it was like something hard had hit me in the chest. I could not believe this.

"Roland told me that the family was leaderless, Roland is not too bright and he cannot lead the family. Neither can his other brother, Maurice. Germain was the rock and glue of our clan. He held everyone together. Now he can barely move.

"I quickly flew back to France and went to the hospital. Germain was sitting in his wheelchair, by the

window. He didn't look up when I came in the room. I think he was ashamed," Andre said.

"I put my hand on his shoulder and squeezed it. He patted my hand and looked up at me. He had tears in his eyes. Germain said, 'I cannot do all that I did before. I hope to someday master this contraption and return as the head of the household. But many things are beyond me. We need you, Andre.'"

"I could stay only a few minutes longer," Andre said. "I returned to America confused and troubled, as I am now. My choices were clear. Return to France and lead my family or stay and wrestle. Either way, people will be hurt." □

A NEW ERA IN WRESTLING MAGAZINES

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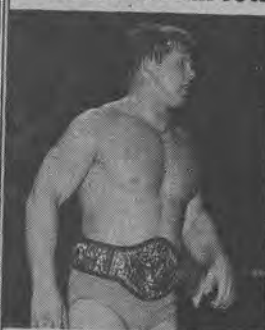
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HERE'S WHAT YOU'LL FIND IN THE JANUARY ISSUE:

- Exclusive, day-by-day coverage of Dusty Rhodes' five-day reign as NWA champion. Illustrated with dozens of peak action photos!
- Rick Steamboat—Why he's the tormented contender
- How much longer can Bob Backlund remain WWF Champion?
- The incredible secret which keeps Nick Bockwinkel AWA Champion
- Blackjack Lanza & Bobby Heenan: The rumors say they're through
- Press Conference: Mil Mascaras
- Update on the Chief Jay Strongbow Headdress Contest

PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED

TV SPORTS
HOW MUCH LONGER CAN BOB BACKLUND BE WWF CHAMPION?

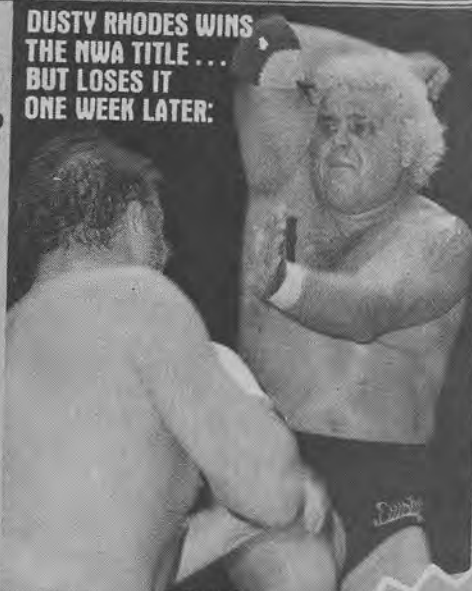


THE SECRET BEHIND NICK BOCKWINKEL'S AWA TITLE SUCCESS

RICK STEAMBOAT REVEALED -- THE TORMENTED CONTENDER
PRESS CONFERENCE: MIL MASCARAS



DUSTY RHODES WINS THE NWA TITLE ... BUT LOSES IT ONE WEEK LATER:

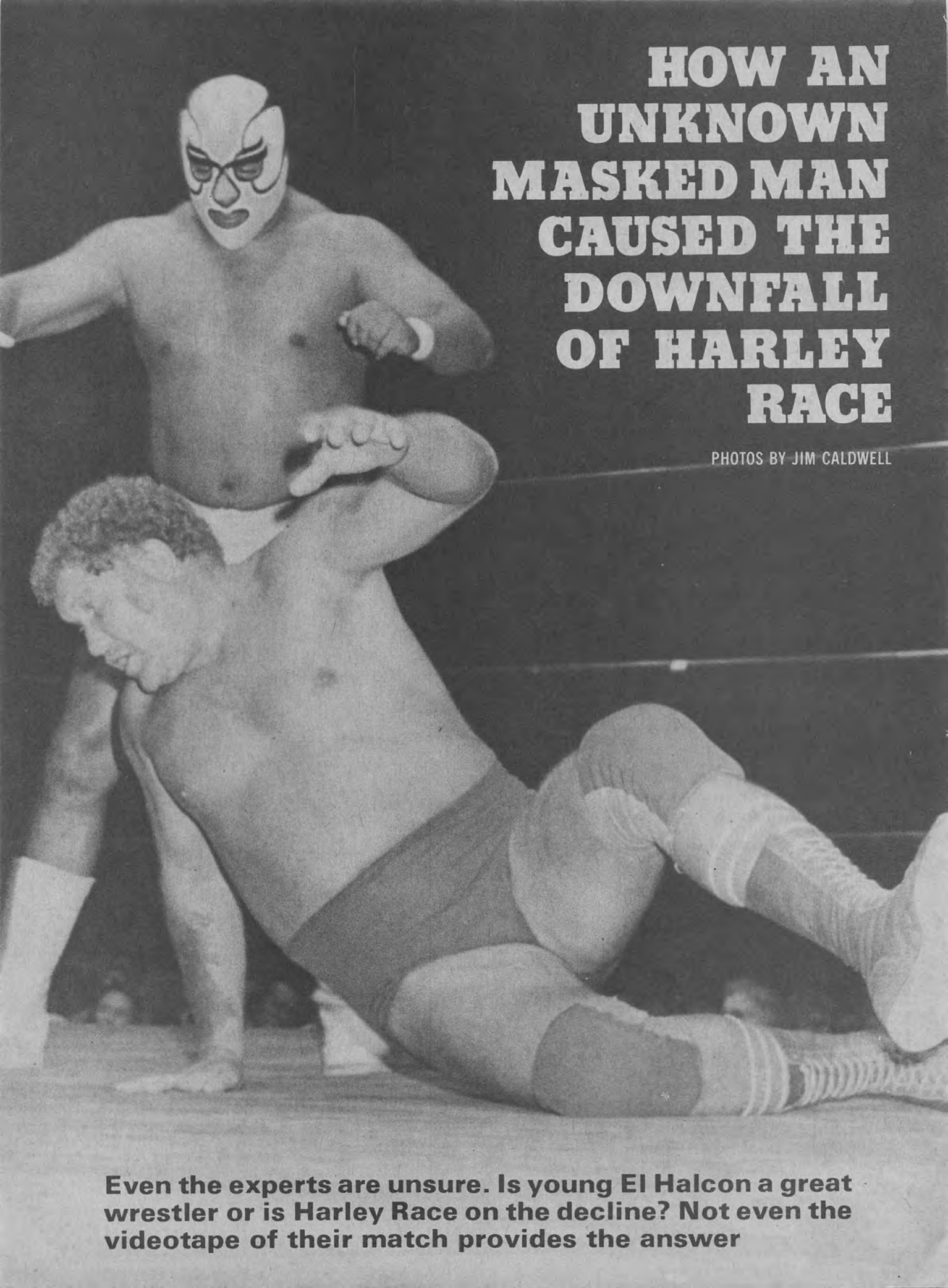


THE SPECTACULAR FIVE DAYS OF DUSTY

**ON SALE
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PLUS: THE WRESTLING ENQUIRER, THE ONLY NEWSPAPER DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY TO WRESTLING!

76 GIANT PAGES OF WRESTLING EXCITEMENT



HOW AN UNKNOWN MASKED MAN CAUSED THE DOWNFALL OF HARLEY RACE

PHOTOS BY JIM CALDWELL

Even the experts are unsure. Is young El Halcon a great wrestler or is Harley Race on the decline? Not even the videotape of their match provides the answer

HARLEY RACE LAY flat on his stomach, a beaten, exhausted man. He thrust out his hands as far as they could stretch, and grabbed hold of the end of the ring apron. With all the energy he could muster, he pulled his body to the end of the ring and swung his hips around until his feet were firmly on the floor.

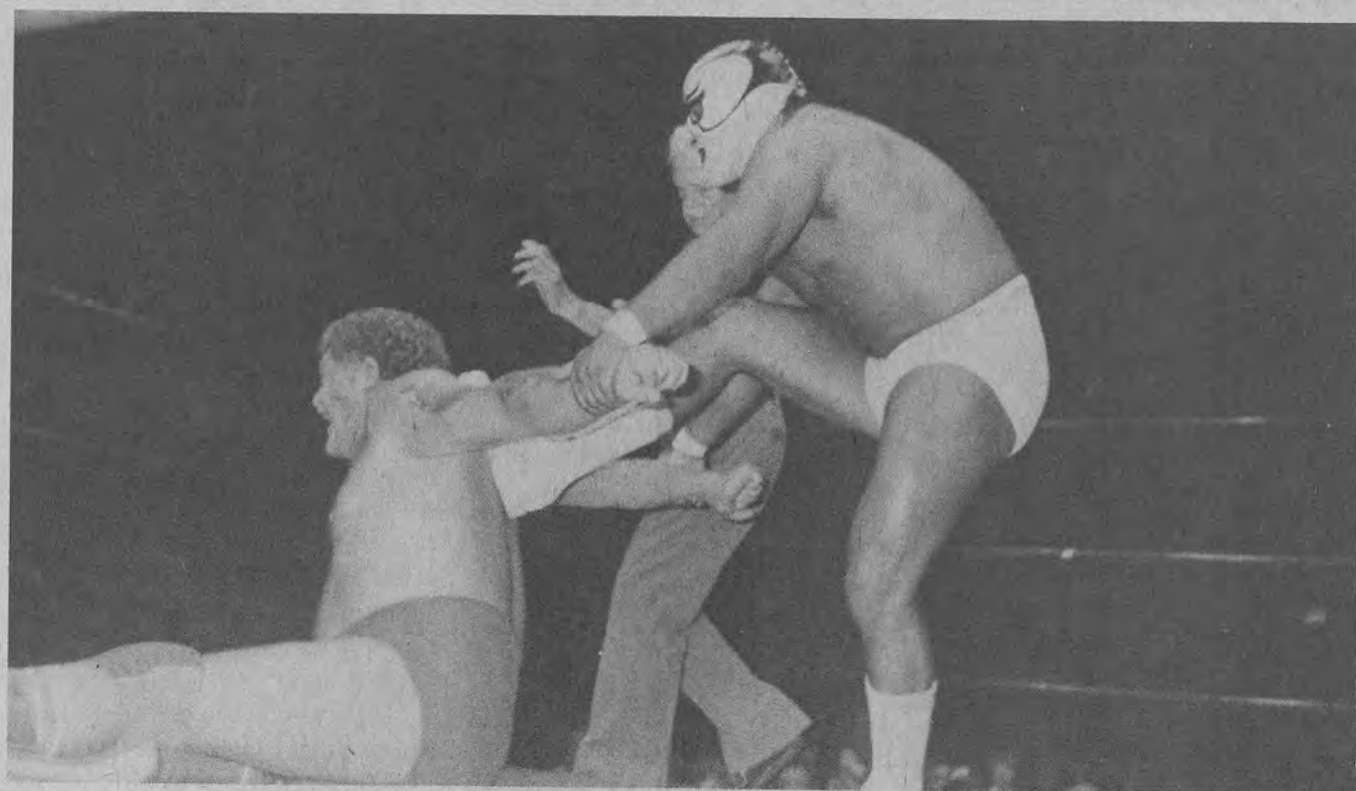
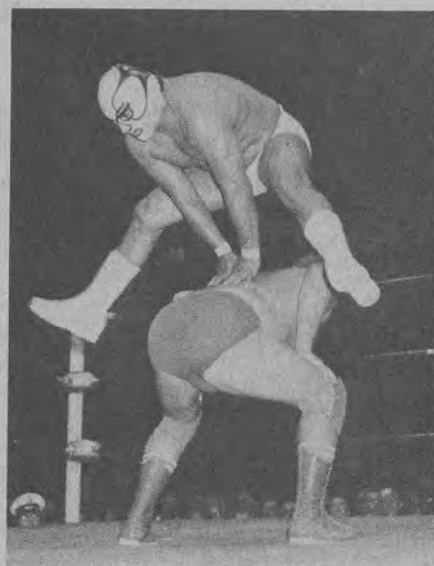
There have been times during Harley's NWA title reign when the action got a bit too heavy for him and he decided the safest place for him and his title was the locker room. The disqualification would be the way—however unethical—

Bounding off the ropes, El Halcon hurdles Harley Race's back (above). Race would not submit to Halcon's crucifix (below).

"El Halcon," one reporter answered.

"Whatever," Race continued. "They tell you, he's just a young upstart, no experience, shouldn't be much of a problem. They say, 'Houston needs a title bout. You'll pulverize this guy.' Well what do they know? Not that much, but I have to take them at their word. You have to do what you have to do.

"To be honest, I wasn't



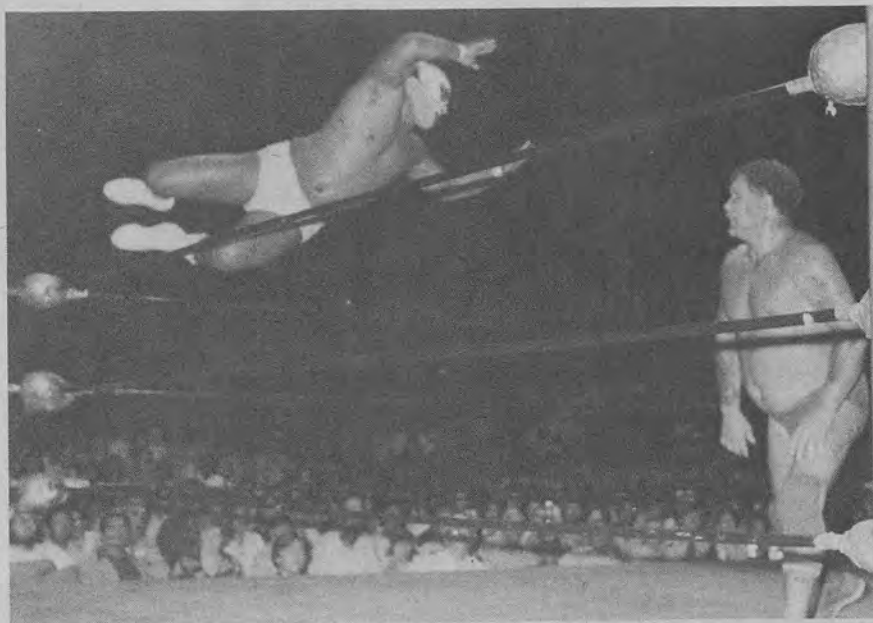
to hold onto his belt. This time there was a slight variation. Race did not run back to the dressing room. He staggered. His purpose was served; the belt was brought back to him as he sat on a stool in the dressing room, unable to pull himself into the shower. He spoke in low, almost inaudible tones. He was humbled. "It's a tough business," he said. "You can wrestle the biggest name star in one part of the country one day. And then you come to Texas and your handlers tell you that this guy, what's his name?"

physically or mentally prepared for what happened tonight. I made a mistake and I paid for it. But I'm still the champion. And no one is ever going to take that away from me."

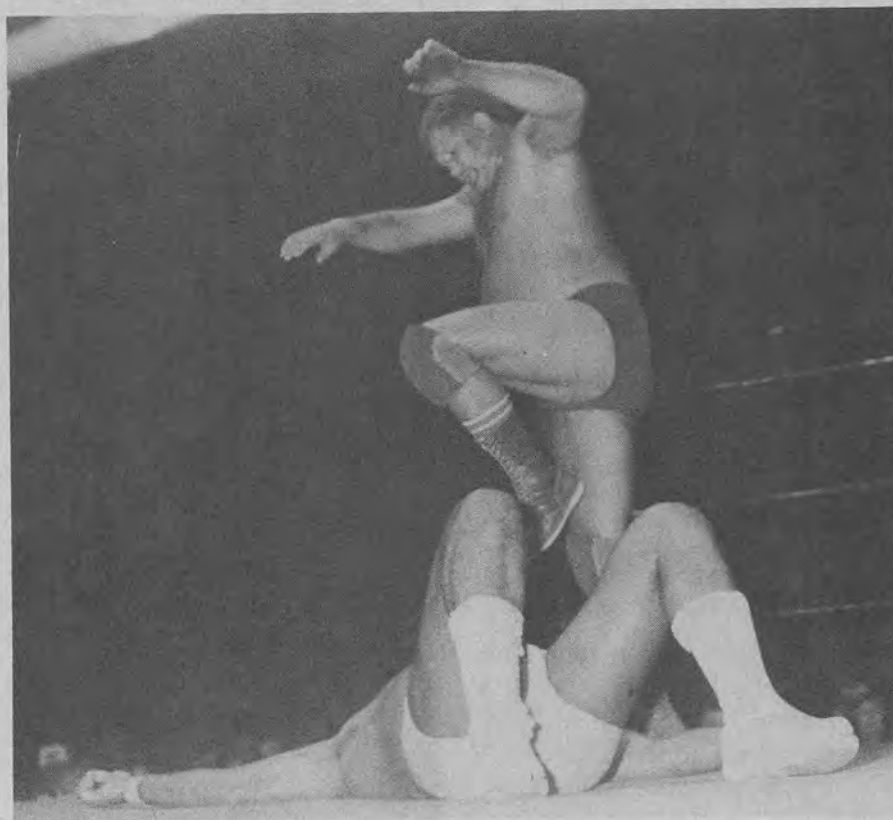
What happened in that Houston ring was videotaped by a company hired by a wrestler who wished to remain anonymous. "I haven't decided what I'm going to do with the tape," he said. "I know that it's

Race appears lethargic as he executes his moves in robot-like fashion.





Above left: El Halcon flies at Race from the top turnbuckle, a move made famous by his idols, El Santo and Mil Mascaras. Above right: The popular Masked Mexican always takes the time to sign autographs. Below: Harley makes a brief comeback, but that night he was outclassed by his young opponent.



going to be a while before Race ever gives me another title shot, so I just might let the tape go to the highest bidder."

What does the tape reveal? Former NWA champ Terry Funk was at the match and has also seen the tape. "You know," he said, "I'm not sure which struck me more—how lethargic Race looked or how

exceptional El Halcon looked. In my opinion, and I've talked this over with several others, Race is ready to be taken. He's been champion for a long time and it's finally starting to catch up with him. How many times has he gotten himself disqualified lately? He took a thrashing from this kid.

"Let's not take anything away

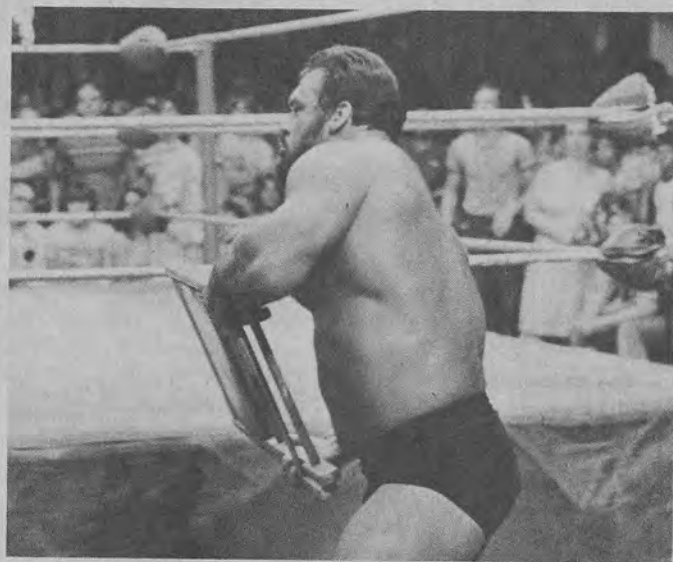
from Halcon though. This kid's got a marvelous future ahead of him. He's got all the tools. He's exceptionally fast and he is tremendously enthusiastic. He may well win the title some day."

That's precisely El Halcon's goal. He knows that he'll get the chance again soon, so he was not particularly disappointed that Race disqualified himself. "The match was a confidence-builder," he said proudly. "Now I know what I could do. You're not going to tell me that Race wasn't at his best. Why would he lose it all of a sudden. He was as rugged and tough as I expected. But I was better today."

Halcon is another young Mexican star who comes from the El Santo school of wrestling. "He was my idol," El Halcon said shaking his head. "You should have seen this man wrestle. Oh, he was lightning! For every move made on him, he countered with two. And he was a great man, too. He made Mil Mascaras what he is today. Nobody patterned themselves after El Santo as well as Mascaras and look how successful he is. If I could ever be as good as either of them I'd be the happiest man alive."

The only thing that could make him happier would be a world championship. Which may be soon. □

Brower vs. Putski:



THE MYSTERY OF THE EMPTY RINGSIDE SEAT

THE MAN WITH the tinted sunglasses looked out of place waiting on line at the Allentown Arena to purchase tickets for the next day's wrestling card. When he got to the ticket window, he slapped his money on the counter and asked for a ringside seat. "Front row," he said. "It's got to be front row."

The man at the ticket booth

looked at him in disbelief. "Are you kidding," he asked. "Don't you know who's on the card? Ivan Putski is wrestling Bulldog Brower and you want a front row seat the day before the match? Ha!"

The ticket salesman paused and stared at the customer for a full 30 seconds. There was something about this man that looked familiar. He was not your average

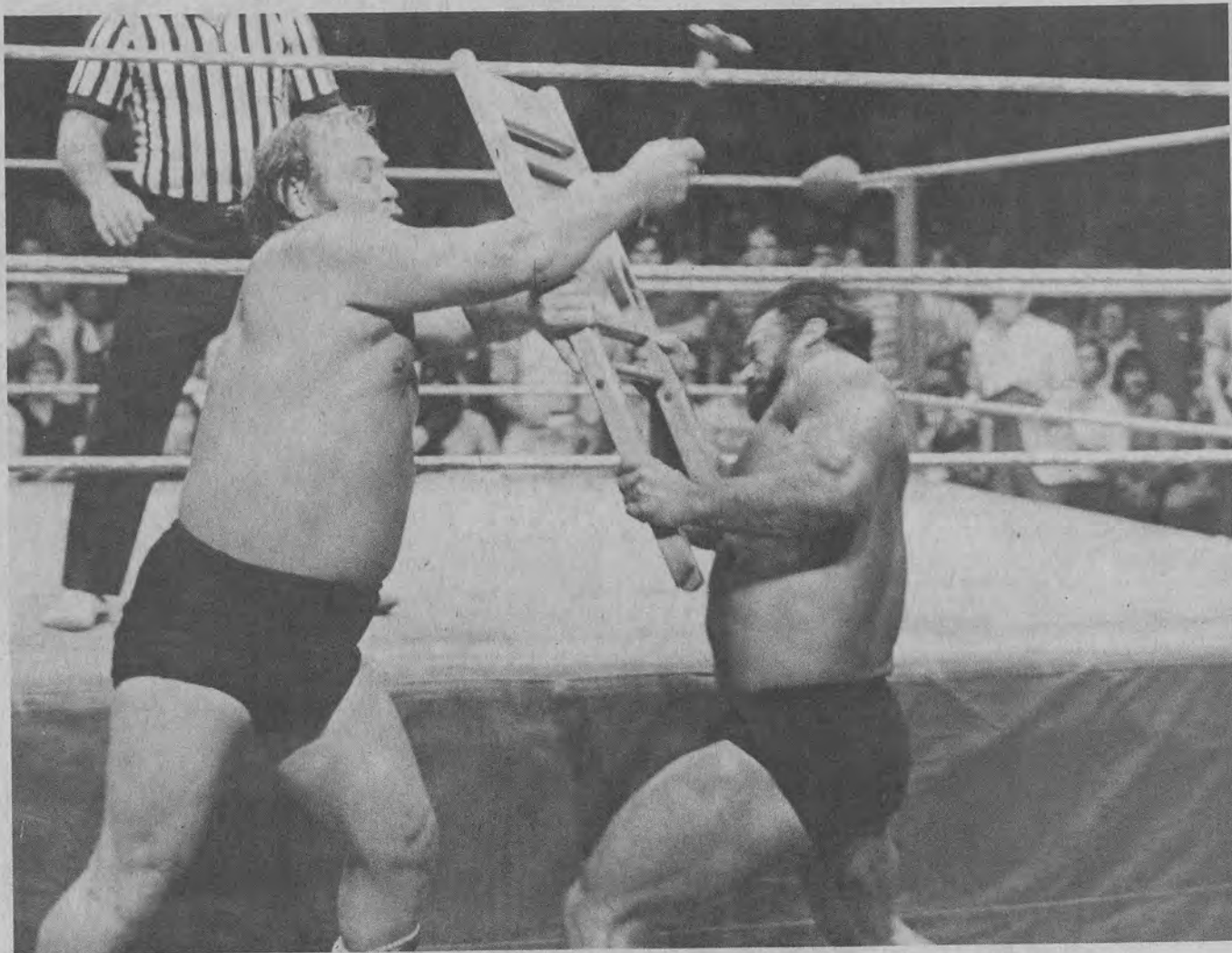
wrestling fan. He was not your average man. He finally spoke. "You know, you look a lot . . ."

"Stop," the customer said. "You're right. Let me in and I'll explain what going on."

The ticket salesman called for a replacement at his window and rushed to let the man in. The customer was a large man. He had to tilt his body a bit to get inside,

The ticket salesman found the situation amusing. Why would this huge man wearing dark sunglasses demand a front-row ringside seat for the Ivan Putski vs. Bulldog Brower bout only a day in advance. Could he be serious? The salesman found out he was as did everyone present at the Allentown Arena

PHOTOS BY GEORGE NAPOLITANO



Ivan Putski said you have to be ready for anything when wrestling Bulldog Brower. He anticipated the need for a chair, but there was little he could do about Brower's hammer attack (above and below).



his shoulders too large to go straight through the narrow passage. He removed his glasses and smiled the smile that has endeared him to wrestling fans around the world. Oh, and he certainly *was* aware of who was wrestling the following day. The customer's name was Ivan Putski.

It took only a short explanation to convince the ticket salesman of his desperate need for a front row seat. "Mr. Putski," he said. "I consider that more than a valid reason. I'd be honored to give you my seat. I could always arrange to get one further back."

Ivan shook the ticket salesman's hand and dedicated the match to him.

All but one seat, front-row ringside, was filled. The fans patiently sat through the

preliminary matches, but they were just an added bonus. Everyone was there to see the main event.

Ivan Putski was intent on settling his feud with Brower. He resents everything about the man. He resents being embarrassed on a television match in which he was tripped from outside the ring by Brower's manager Lou Albano and was bodypressed. He resents the Bulldog's claim of "Brower Power," since Ivan boasts of "Polish Power." He resents Brower's animalistic, sadistic wrestling style. Quite simply, he resents Bulldog Brower.

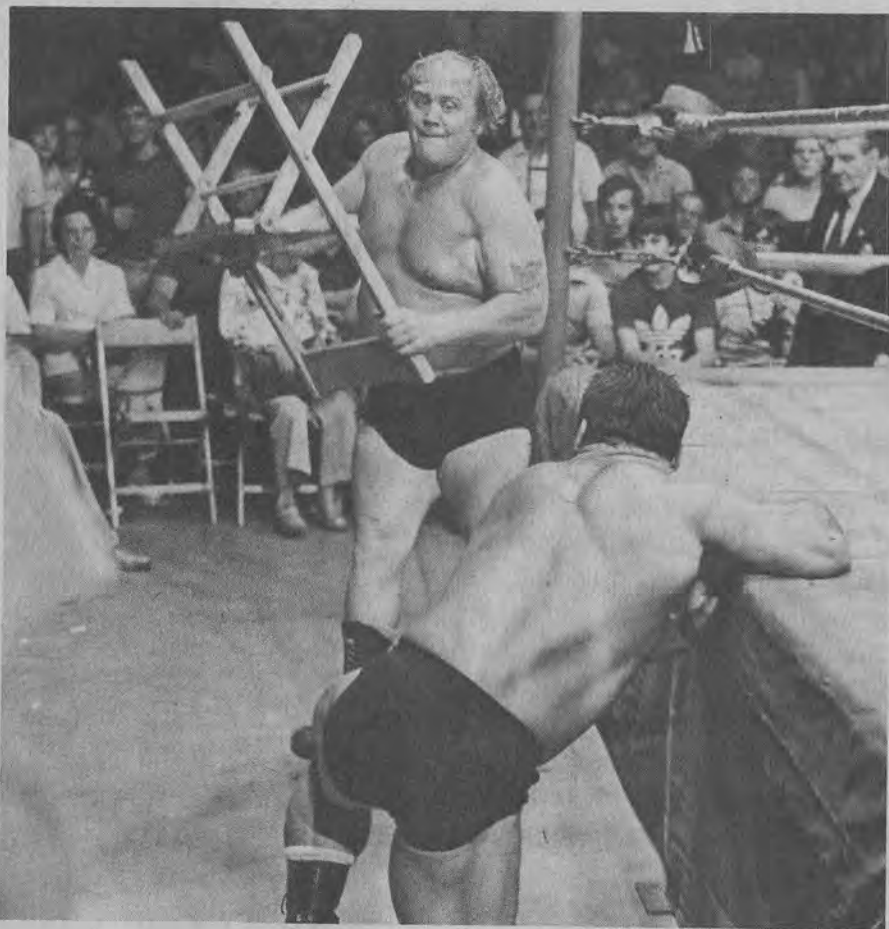
Like most wrestlers, Ivan is not easy to speak to before a bout. But there was one question that needed answering. The seat. Who did you buy the seat for? There is nobody sitting there. "I'd rather not say, my friend. Let's just wait and see," said the Polish strongman. He had a concerned look in his eyes, unusual for Putski.

The bell rang to start the match. Brower charged out of the ring immediately. Putski followed. The referee didn't bother to count. Brower ran over to an elderly woman at ringside and let out a howl that could probably be heard all the way out to Three Mile Island. The woman screamed and ran as fast as she could to the other side of the arena. Her chair was vacant, but would not go unused.

Bulldog picked up the chair and slammed it across Putski's face. Ivan hit the cement floor hard but amazingly sprung right to his feet. He was prepared for the moment. He did not find it difficult to anticipate Brower's moves.

Putski ran half way around the ring. Brower laughed. But he stopped laughing suddenly when Ivan found an empty chair—his empty chair—and began to retaliate.

The two swung wildly at each other until the referee decided he had seen quite enough. He



Brower had no intention of wrestling Putski in the ring. He felt his best chance would be outside the ring where he could use a ringside chair as a weapon. Above and below, Brower slams Ivan with a chair he stole from an elderly lady.



signalled for the bell. That, of course, did not stop the violence. Several wrestlers were summoned before order was restored. Double-disqualification was the verdict.

And the chair mystery was solved. "You have to be ready for



that kind of thing with Brower," Putski said in the locker room. "I had sort of a feeling that it would come to this. Of course, I wasn't going to use the chair unless forced to. And I wasn't about to chase some old lady out of her seat!" □

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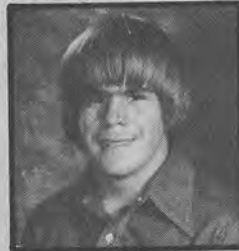
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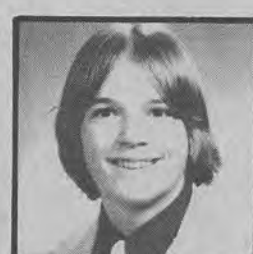
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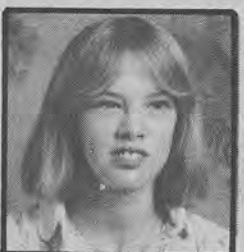
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THE SHEIK VS. MIL MASCARAS

(Continued from Page 18)



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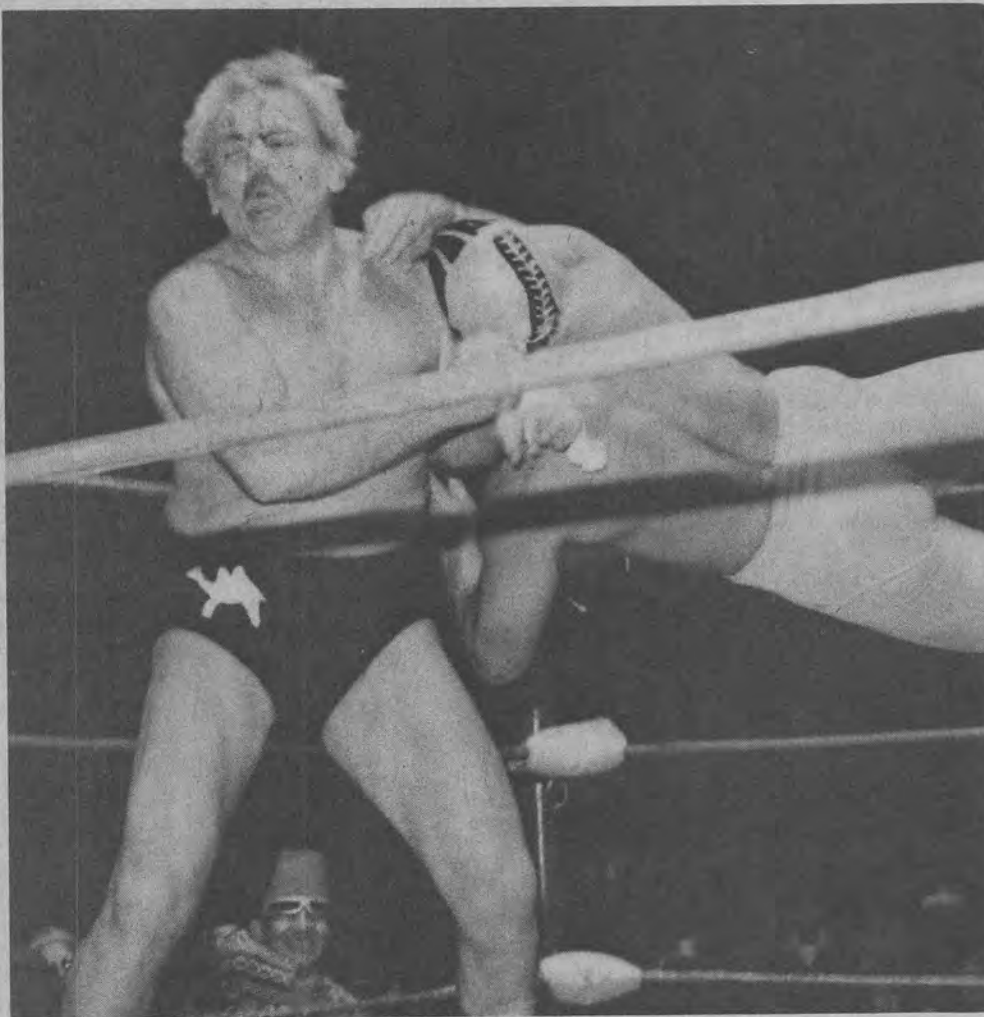
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Above: Mil Mascaras hits The Sheik with a flying tackle (above) as the Grand Wizard, in the background, implores The Sheik to throw an elbow smash. Below: As the action carried out of the ring, Mascaras sends Sheik's head toward the ring steps.





carried off on a stretcher.

Mil Mascaras had heard early that afternoon about Wizard being in Detroit. The wily veteran knew what was happening. By match time, Mil had worked up a number of strategies to combat Sheik's more infamous moves. Mil knew Sheik was going for the quick kill.

Finally, the moment arrived. Sheik strode into the ring as the crowd booed his entrance. Then, boos turned to cheers as Mil Mascaras made his way through the admiring throng. As Mil neared the ring, he saw Wizard smirking evilly. Mil walked on.

The two men stared at each other from across the ring. The

(Continued on page 48)

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THE SHEIK VS. MIL MASCARAS

(Continued from Page 47)



The Grand Wizard was very pleased with The Sheik's style of wrestling (above) and moments after his match with Mil Mascaras, he made the announcement that he had signed the Arab to a lucrative contract (below).



bell sounded. Sheik rushed toward his opponent. Mil stopped him with a flying body block. Sheik leaped back to his feet and rushed again. Mil managed to ward off his attack,

but it was clear Sheik's assaults were punishing.

For the next 30 minutes, both men struggled desperately. It was a superb display of wrestling virtuosity by

Mascaras, especially when one considers the vicious savagery of Sheik's maneuvers. Spectators were in awe of Sheik during this match, as one is always in awe of something totally evil.

The match ended in a draw. As the bell rang, one could sense that both men were relieved that the struggle had ended. Exhausted, aching, each man hurried quickly to the dressing room. The soothing waters of a hot shower beckoned them.



Mil Mascaras points out his injured left knee to the doctor after the match. It was only strained ligaments.

Wizard quickly made his way to Sheik's dressing room. Although the match was a draw, he loved what Sheik had done. With the proper coaching, with Wizard's coaching, Sheik was sure to take the WWF title from Bob Backlund. Wizard would once again be managing the king of the WWF.

It took no more than three minutes for the men to finalize the deal. The next day, Sheik packed his bags and headed east. Bloodlust rages within him as he sets his sights for Bob Backlund. ☐

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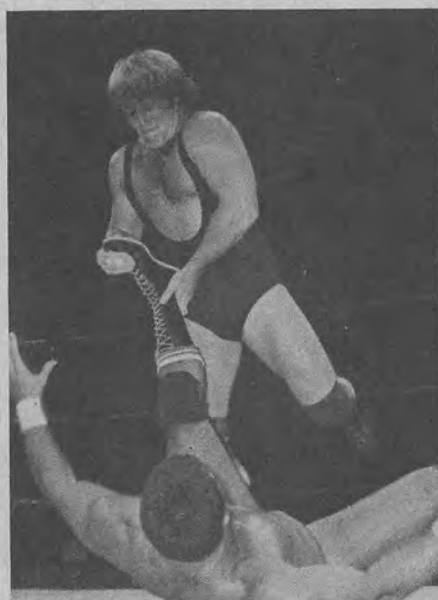
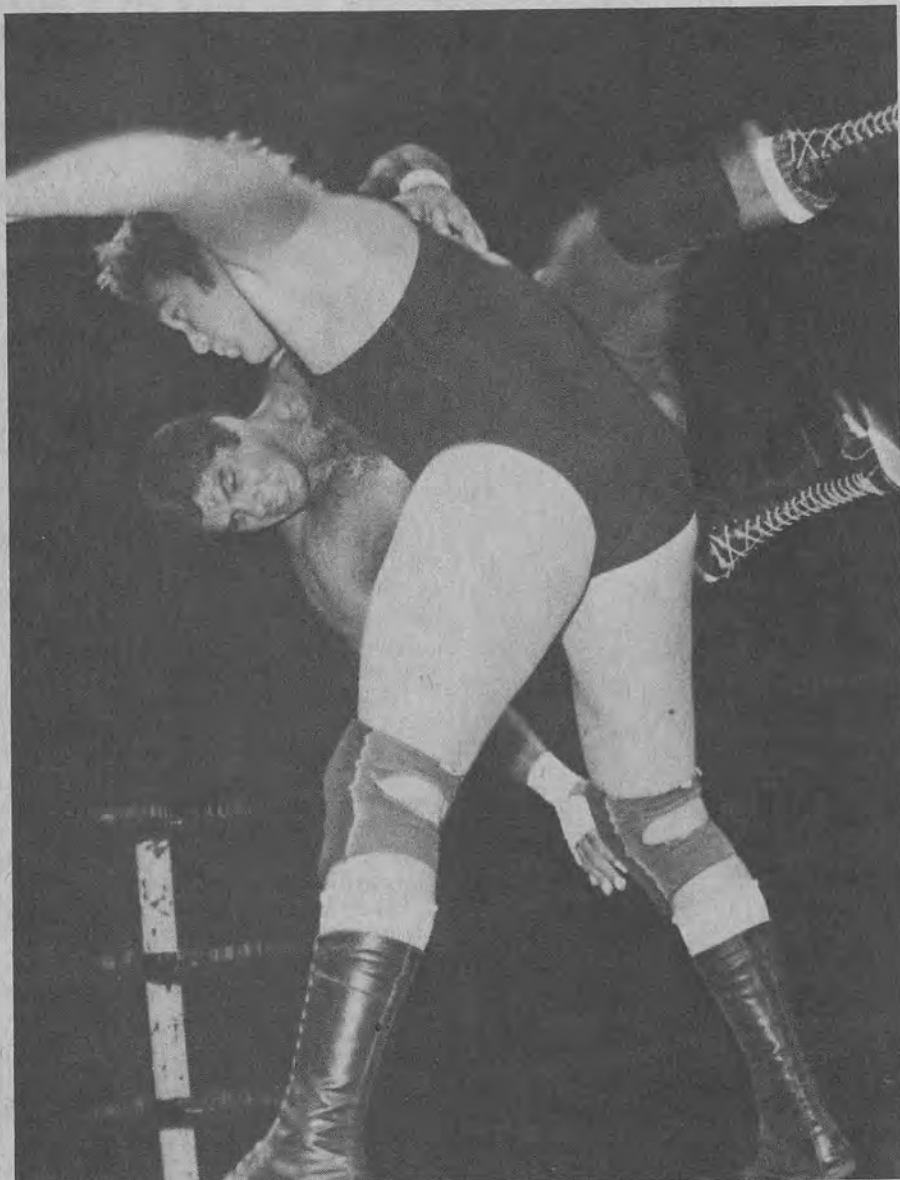
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STEVE KEIRN

(Continued from Page 21)



Steve Keirn uses his leverage to hiproll Don Muraco to the mat (above) and works on Muraco's left leg (below). Keirn feels comfortable teaming with both Graham and Garvin.

are too narrow to accept a man being able to do more than one thing at a time," Keirn continued. "They think that since you have one belt, that's all you want to do or, more so, that's all you can do."

There is a valid core for the current barrage of criticism leveled at Keirn's decision to wrestle with two men. A tag team is a delicate, almost fragile entity. It demands total dedication and complete



Steve Keirn (background) looks to tag as his partner, Mike Graham, is worked over by Jos Leduc.

compromise. Individuality must be incorporated into the total unit so the result is a synchronous organism.

To watch two men complement each other in the squared circle is a marvelous experience. Graham and Keirn do that. Obviously, so do Keirn and Garvin. However, the sort of compromises required are different in different tag teams.

Keirn has known Graham for a long time. Sometimes, their maneuvers are instinctive. With Garvin, that instinctive flow is not there. Not yet, anyway. So Graham must think about what he has to do instead of simply doing it.

"Oh, yeah, I have a different approach when I'm wrestling with Mike than when I'm with Jimmy," said Keirn. "Mike'll try a move, maybe get in a jam and I'll be on my way, leaning into the ring, before he sticks out his hand."

"Okay, so it's not yet like that with Garvin. Heck, we've done a pretty good job groping around," Keirn said. "There's a lot I want to accomplish in life and I'll be damned if I'm gonna make a choice at this stage."

His courage is there. So is the will and determination. All Keirn needs to attain superstardom is luck. □

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

(Continued from Page 10)

Bruno Sammartino had his hands full against WWF North American champion Pat Patterson. "Patterson is one of the toughest guys I have ever wrestled," notes Bruno. "But I'll tell you something. I would love to get those brass knuckles he uses on opponents and show him what it feels like to be on the receiving end for a change."

Swede Hanson and Roddy Piper discussed teaming, but the partnership deal fell through. "Swede's a great guy," said Piper, "but he wanted 60 percent of our purses. That won't work because I demand 80." . . . AWA rookie Steve Olsonoski is feuding with Bobby Duncum . . . Stan Hansen finally entered the AWA and has been teaming with several different partners. Hansen's plans in the area are still uncertain—he is still contracted for matches in Georgia. Bobby Duncum is headed for the WWF.

Paul Orndorff is doing great in Tennessee according to correspondent Tim Hart. Tim saw a match in which Paul squared off against the always dangerous "Continental Lover" Eddy Mansfield and reports that Paul certainly frustrated Mansfield's rulebreaking tactics . . . Ron and Robert Fuller continue to defend their Southeastern tag team belts against the best in Tennessee.

"Big Cat" Ernie Ladd says that Tony Atlas' has gone to the WWF "fearing for his life." Ernie adds, "I used to manage the dude but he broke his contract and skipped town. He's a gonner if I ever see him again. Atlas retorts: "Ladd is full of bull! He knows I can whip him. I left the Mid-Atlantic area 'cause I got tired of beatin' him!" If WWF promoters are smart they'll get Ladd into the area and sign a match between these two.

Something should be said complimenting veteran grappler Mad Dog Vachon. Perhaps one of the most vicious men in the sport, Vachon has now turned his aggressive tactics to good use, as far as the fans are concerned, he is wrestling AWA rulebreakers. "My tactics will never change," he assured us. "I am Mad Dog. I wrestle everyone the same. I am the most dangerous man in wrestling."



Mad Dog Vachon piledrives Blackjack Lanza dangerously close to the edge of the ring apron. Despite teaming with scientific wrestlers, his tactics have not changed.

They pay me, I wrestle anyone. But I do admit, the backing of fans feels good—for now. I don't know how long that will last." Vachon currently holds the AWA tag team title along with Verne Gagne. Let's hope he doesn't turn on Gagne as that could spell disaster throughout the association.

And that's what's happening. See you next time. ☐

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YOUR LETTERS

(Continued from Page 14)

LONG OVERDUE

"Mr. Wrestling: Tribute To An Underrated Star" (November/1979) was an article whose time was long overdue. Tim Woods is one of the most talented wrestlers who ever put on the boots. He has demonstrated his genius time after time. No rulebreaker escapes his wrath.

Name a bad guy and I'll bet that Woods has smashed his face. Masked Superstar, Blackjack Lanza, or Ernie Ladd. Tim is magnificent. I think it was very revealing that Ivan Koloff conceded Tim's enormous skills.

He is a great man and a great wrestler. Fans can sleep well at night, knowing Mr. Wrestling roams the squared circle.

DICK NORKETT
Athens, Ga.

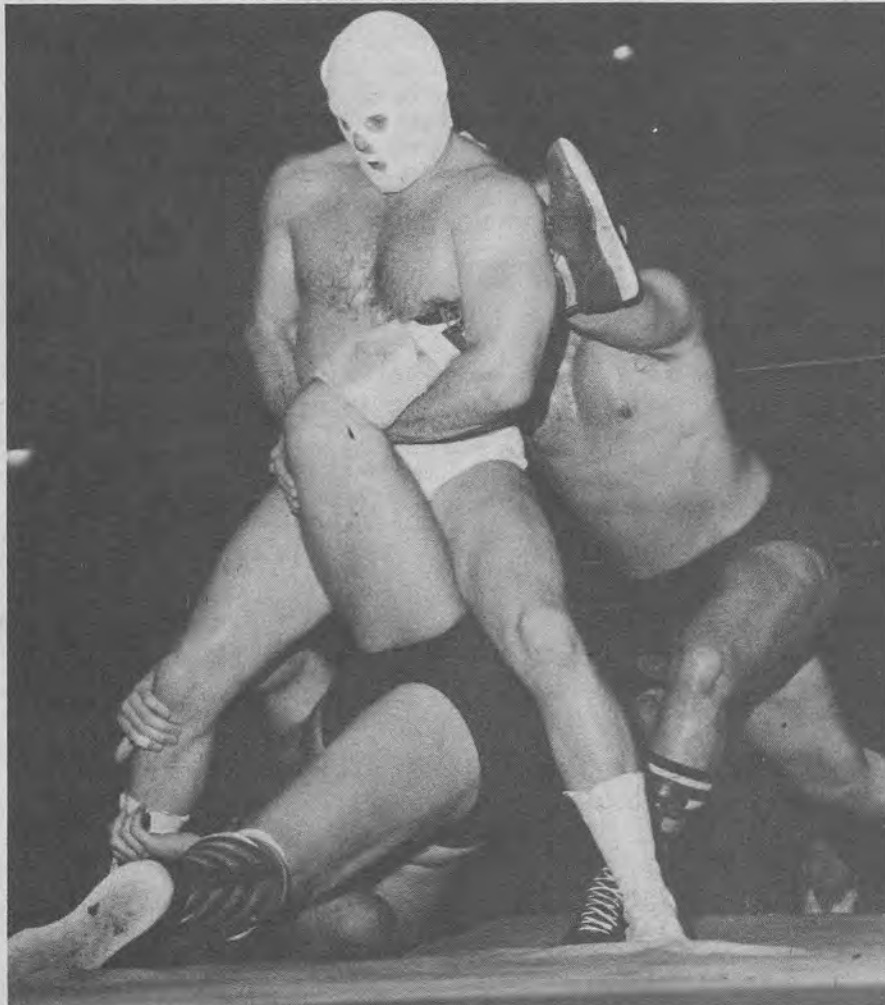
DEFEND GREG

It's about time that true wrestling fans stood up and defended Greg Valentine. Why must we put up with the lies in your magazine and elsewhere? Greg is one of the premier wrestlers of the '70s—I'm sure there are many fans who appreciate Greg's efforts to destroy all the fifth-rate sissies who plague the arenas. Mr. Valentine is bringing class back to the WWF at a most appropriate time.

What Greg has proven is that he is worthy of the title. Backlund's days are numbered. He will fall like Strongbow did.

MILTON GOTTLIEB
Abington, Mass.

Tim "Mr. Wrestling" Woods has a true fan in Dick Norkett. Dick points out that Mr. Wrestling has beaten the sport's top wrestlers and has received praise from even his enemies.



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Dick saw that there is more to life than winning and cheating. Jack Brisco is a fine man. I hope he reads this letter so I can thank him for my son.

DONNA LEE MARTIN
Orlando, Fla. ☐

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CORRESPONDENT REPORTS

(Continued from Page-12)



Johnny Valiant will always remember his encounter with the Living Legend, Bruno Sammartino. After Valiant sneak-attacked Bruno from behind, the two-time WWF champion dominated the action. The referee decided that Valiant was too severely cut to continue the bout.

BALTIMORE, MD.—Correspondent: Bruce Cole—Bruno Sammartino has grown accustomed to handling fiendish men like Johnny Valiant. They don't call him the Living Legend for nothing! The match began with Johnny dumping Bruno from behind and working him over for a while. Then Bruno took control and beat Johnny to a bloody mess. Obviously upset, Bruno kept working on Valiant's cuts until the

ref, in the name of humanity, stopped the bout.

In other matches, Andre the Giant stopped Jerry Valiant . . . Ivan Putski thumped Jim Valiant . . . Nikolai Volkoff downed Steve Travis . . . Johnny Rodz stopped Steve King . . . Pete Sanchez halted Frank Williams.

ASBURY PARK, N.J.—Correspondent: Kevin Finch—A filled-to-capacity Convention Hall witnessed a truly extraordinary

event. The master of the figure-four leglock, Greg Valentine, took on his arch-enemy, Chief Jay Strongbow. Everyone knew of their intense hatred for each other. From the start, it was obvious Strongbow wanted this match to end with Valentine carried out on a stretcher. A cut developed over Valentine's eye. Strongbow wanted to pummel Valentine until he was covered with blood, but the referee wanted it stopped. Strongbow hit the ref and was disqualified. He did not seem sorry.



Chief Strongbow, driven by the memory of his broken leg, was disqualified against Greg Valentine.

In other matches, Nikolai Volkoff and Jerry Valiant stopped Tito Santana and Pete Sanchez . . . Frank Williams overpowered Frank Rodriguez.

KNOXVILLE, TENN.—Correspondent: Tim Hart—Paul Orndorff got off with a big bang in Tennessee mat wars when he confronted Eddy Mansfield. Orndorff gained total control over the match and had Mansfield on the run. With victory on the horizon for Orndorff, Mansfield started breaking rules. It didn't work. Orndorff gained a brilliant victory.

In other bouts, Robert Fuller won the right to shave Norvel Austin's head . . . Dick Slater beat Kevin Sullivan. ☐

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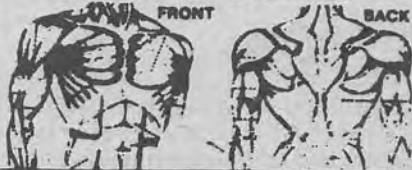
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YOU ASKED US

(Continued from Page 8)

real despair when I wondered if I'd ever win that title. But I finally realized my dream. I want to tell David and all my fans, it feels awful fine to be champion of the NWA. Awful fine."

Q: How does Jerry Brisco feel about Sonny King's suspension from Florida wrestling arenas?—Kathy Peters, West Palm Beach, Fla.

A: "I think this is an extremely positive step toward cleansing Florida of rule-breakers," Jerry said. "It's difficult for wrestlers on a night by night basis to rid the area of creatures like King. King's antics have caused much pain and grief. He's responsible for some sickening moment. Yet through it all, he was an arrogant stinker who always believed he was above the law. This is an instructive lesson for everyone. No man is above the law. No one."

Q: Do you think Gordon Solie could give me some pointers on breaking into wrestling broadcasting?—Craig Lavery, Atlanta, Ga.

A: "Well, Craig, you need three things to make it in broadcasting. Talent, determination, and luck," Solie said. "I can't say which is more important. You should practice broadcasting the matches when you watch them on television. You should try and learn as much about wrestling as possible and read everything written on the sport. And you have to hope you get that big break." □

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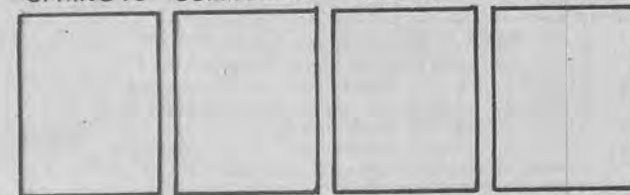


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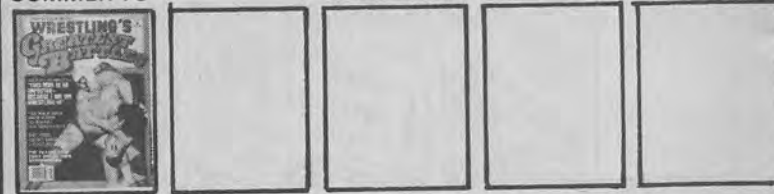


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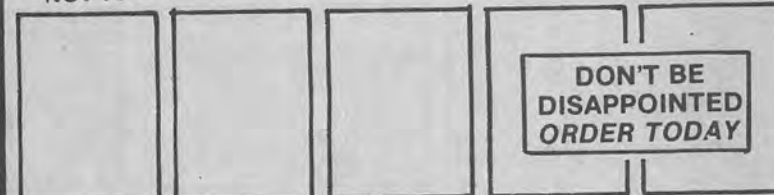
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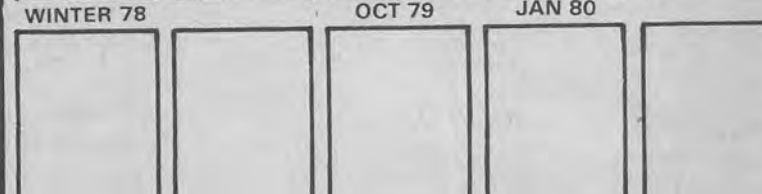
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EDDIE GILBERT

(Continued from Page 27)

answer. A very positive answer. "The kid will win it all someday," Thesz stated flatly.

Eddie, the son of leading junior heavyweight contender Tommy Gilbert, blushed when he was told of Thesz's comment. "What can I say," he asked. "When possibly the greatest wrestler in history says you are good, well, you can't ask for a finer compliment. When my dad says I'm good, that's one thing. He's my dad. But Lou Thesz? Are you sure he said that?"

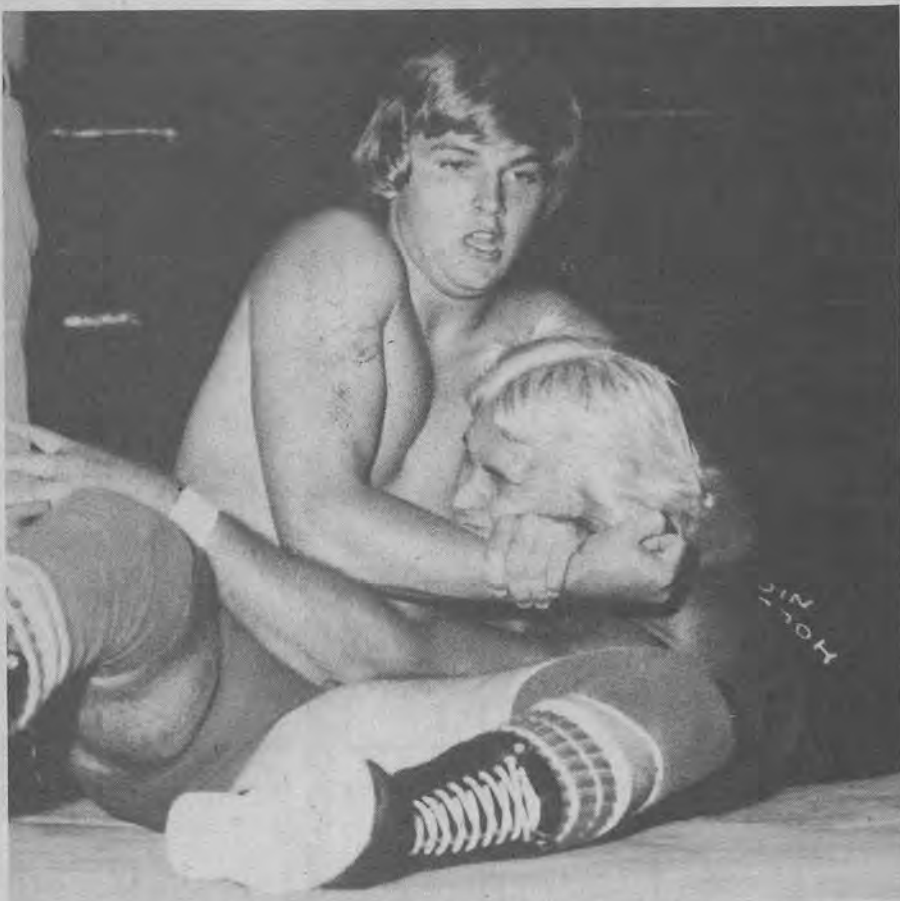
Gilbert was asked if he wanted to listen to the tape recording of Thesz's interview. He smiled and declined. Gilbert would have found that too embarrassing. He's a modest young man who possesses talent that most veterans never acquire. And he is a wrestler with two sizable goals. "The first is to become as great a wrestler as my father. The second is to win the NWA title."

Gilbert is quick to credit those who helped him prepare for life in the squared circle.

"Most of my training came from my dad, who taught me all he knew about the sport," Gilbert said. "I also received a lot of help from Lou Thesz, Jerry Lawler, and the Funks, Dory Jr., and Terry. I was very fortunate to have so many great stars helping me along."

Eddie was born and raised in the small town of Lexington, Tennessee, where he excelled in sports throughout his school years, especially wrestling and football. He displayed a talent for both writing and photography, but it was the lure of wrestling that finally won out.

Gilbert wrestles in the Memphis area and has formed



an outstanding tag team with his father, Tommy.

"Teaming with my father was always one of my biggest dreams," Eddie explained. "I am still very much in awe of his ability and I hope to someday become as fine a wrestler as he is."

Other Memphis stars speak in glowing terms about Eddie Gilbert's future.

Young Eddie Gilbert holds Wayne Farris firmly in a headlock (above). Eddie was not only taught by his father, Tommy, but by many of the sport's greats.

"I've never seen anyone so eager to learn and so quick to master the sport," Lawler said. "Mark my words, there'll be no stopping him once he gets enough experience."

"Old man Gilbert sure must be proud," stated Bill Dundee.

"Can't believe he's so tough at his age," Buddy Wayne confessed. "In a few years, he'll be unbeatable. He's that good."

Gilbert's immense popularity with Memphis fans is easy to understand. His clean-cut appearance blended with his gentle personality and his outstanding ring style combine to make him possibly the sport's most promising rookie.

What does Tommy Gilbert have to say about Eddie's outstanding ring efforts?

"That's my boy!" exclaimed a very proud father. □

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• **MAKE TIME RUN BACKWARD OR FORWARD!**—A



MEET THE AUTHORS

GAVIN FROST, B.Sc., Ph.D., D.D., is Archbishop of the Church of Wicca, New Bern, North Carolina with national headquarters in Salem, Missouri, branches in several states and worldwide membership. He is Marshal of the Gold Star of England, with the right to wear the Saffron Robe and one of the very few Witches in the Western Hemisphere privileged to wear the authentic mark of initiation on his wrist. Although descended from a long line of mystics and scholars, and formerly a Vice-President and Director of International Operations for major aerospace companies, he prefers to be thought of as a humble teacher.

Mrs. YVONNE FROST, A.A., D.D., with her husband Gavin Frost, devotes her time to giving private instruction and publishing *Survival*, the newsletter of the Church of Wicca, of which she is a Bishop.

Articles by or about Gavin and Yvonne Frost have appeared in such national publications as *Midnight* and the *National Enquirer*.

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VOLKOFF ATTACKS BRUNO

(Continued from Page 33)

"I have no regard for the man as a wrestler or a human being," he said. "He fooled the fans for all the years he wrestled and he is fooling them now. He's too stupid and biased to give an accurate commentary for the TV audience. The only reason he's an announcer is so he can keep his name alive. If he was out of the public eye for a month, they'd forget about him. And he would no longer be the 'Living Legend.' I plan to put him out of wrestling for the rest of his life."

What Blassie was saying is that the attack was planned before.

Nikolai Volkoff is one of the strongest men in professional wrestling. He likes to flaunt it and Blassie likes to boast about it. That night Volkoff finished assaulting a preliminary wrestler and came to ringside for an interview with Sammartino, who does the color commentary for the wrestling matches televised throughout the Northeast and viewed by millions.

"Watch this, Sammartino," Blassie said handing an apple to Volkoff. Volkoff took the apple in his left hand roughly six inches from Bruno's face and squeezed. Pieces of the apple landed on Bruno's jacket, but the former WWF champion did not appear disturbed.

"Sammartino," Blassie said pointing his cane at Bruno's eyes, "they said you were the strongest wrestler in the history of the sport. Well my man is the strongest man alive. You didn't compare to him when you wrestled and you certainly don't compare to him now. You're an old man, Sammartino. An old pencil-necked man."



"I don't understand why you're involving me in this, Blassie," Sammartino said shrugging his shoulders. "But if you think you're man is so strong, why don't we settle it right here and now. How about an arm wrestling match right here on TV?"

Blassie let out an evil laugh. Almost as if he had anticipated Bruno's challenge.

Bruno asked for a table to be set up with two chairs on either side and began to remove his jacket. As he did so, Blassie slammed his cane across Bruno's face and Volkoff attacked from behind. Bruno's shirt was in shreds. But only his pride was seriously injured. He vowed revenge.

"Blassie has been after me for years but he never beat me fair and square," Sammartino said. "Doggone it. Now he's too old to do anything himself so he sends his goons out after me. But let me tell you something, I haven't lost a thing. I still work out as hard as ever. I'm as prepared to wrestle today as I was 10 years ago. I don't like hating. I don't like revenge. But Volkoff and Blassie will pay for what they did to me.

"You know, I've had to deal with Blassie and his cowardly tactics for a long time. And I blame myself partially for not being ready for that attack. It was a typical Blassie ploy. And now I promise to pay him back for everything he's done to me. I'm just sorry it's not him who will be in the ring, but beating Volkoff—no, maiming Volkoff—is the next best thing. I just hope Blassie is at ringside and tried to interfere. That would give me license to deal with him directly."

Bruno issued fair warning. Everything on his mind is out in the open. Sneak-attack is simply not his way. And that's why he—not Freddie Blassie—is wrestling's "Living Legend." □

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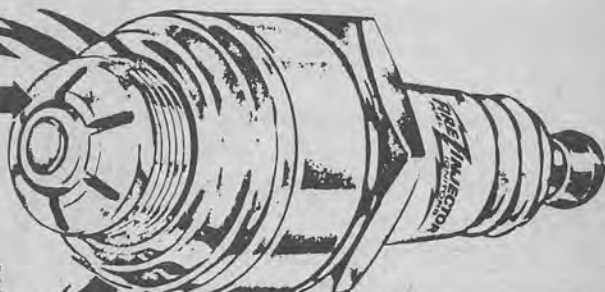
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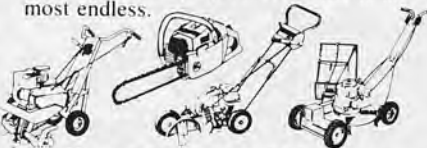
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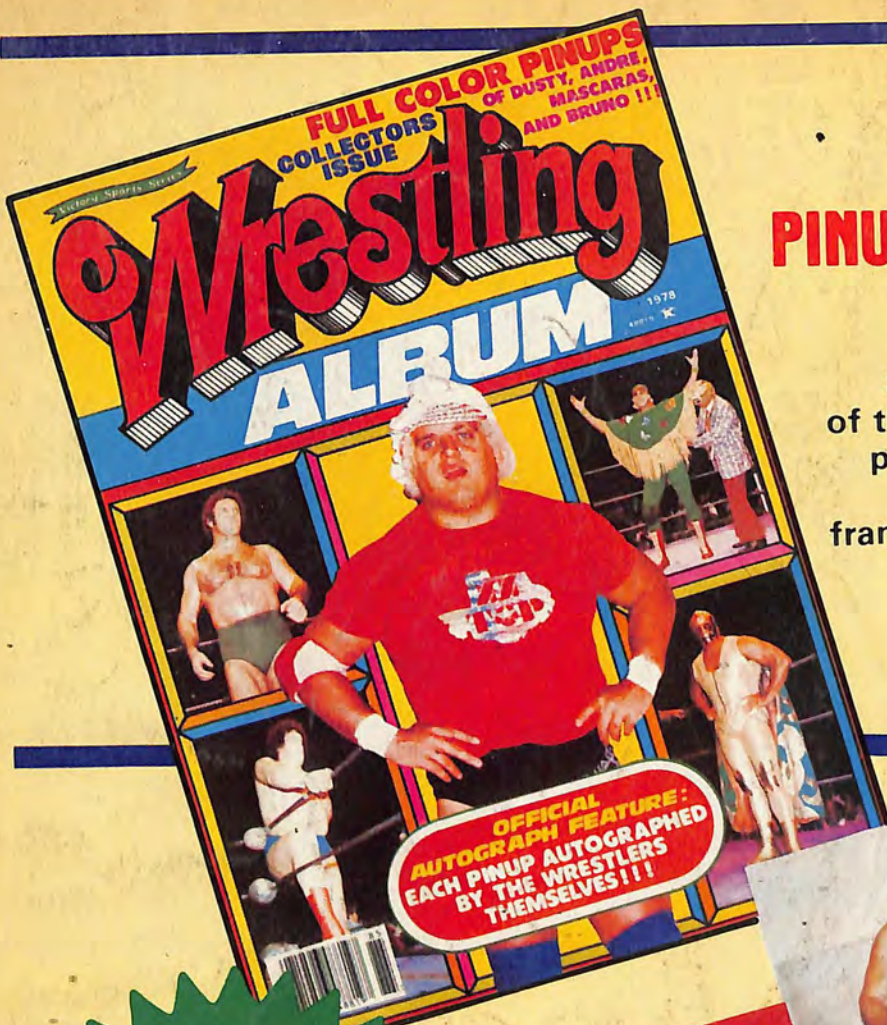


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